

### Kaufman steps down

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, is to step down from Labour's frontbench team after 18 years. He has also decided not to stand again for the party's national executive committee, whose 1983 election manifesto he described as the longest suicide note in history.

Mr Kaufman, 61, said: "It is right to make way for another political generation who, under the leadership to be elected next month, can carry the Labour party through to success in the next general election and into the next century." Page 6

### Hurd warns on conflicts

Russia's refusal to set a date for withdrawing its forces from the Baltic states could be more explosive than anything seen in Yugoslavia, Douglas Hurd said yesterday, emphasising Britain's reluctance to consider sending troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina if sanctions fail to stop the bloodshed.

The power of outsiders to halt conflicts should not be exaggerated, he said. "Neither the UN, nor the EC, nor the WEU (Western European Union), nor the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe), nor Nato, nor any combination of initials can by themselves impose a peace by force or exercise fears and threats." Page 11

### Derby Day favourites

The 213th running of the Derby at Epsom today is one of the most open in the history of the race with Ladbrokes quoting six of the 19 runners as 8-1 joint favourites. Among them is Rodrigo De Triunfo, on whom Lester Piggott will be seeking a tenth Derby triumph. Victory for the 56-year-old grandfather would cost Britain's bookmakers an estimated £20 million.

Derby guide, pages 28, 29  
Rain worry, page 32

### Pensions plea

Mirror Group pensioners who have been told there is no money to pay them any more are demanding that Robert Maxwell's family give details of their assets. Labour MPs are also seeking a government statement in the light of disclosures that Maxwell had a network of companies, in Liechtenstein that were beyond the reach of creditors or pensioners. Page 2

### Midland bid

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has increased its offer for Midland Bank to £3.9 billion in a knockout attempt to secure its grip on British banking once and for all. Lloyd's, its rival in the battle for Midland, has called an emergency meeting for Friday and may raise its offer. Page 19

### Halford claim

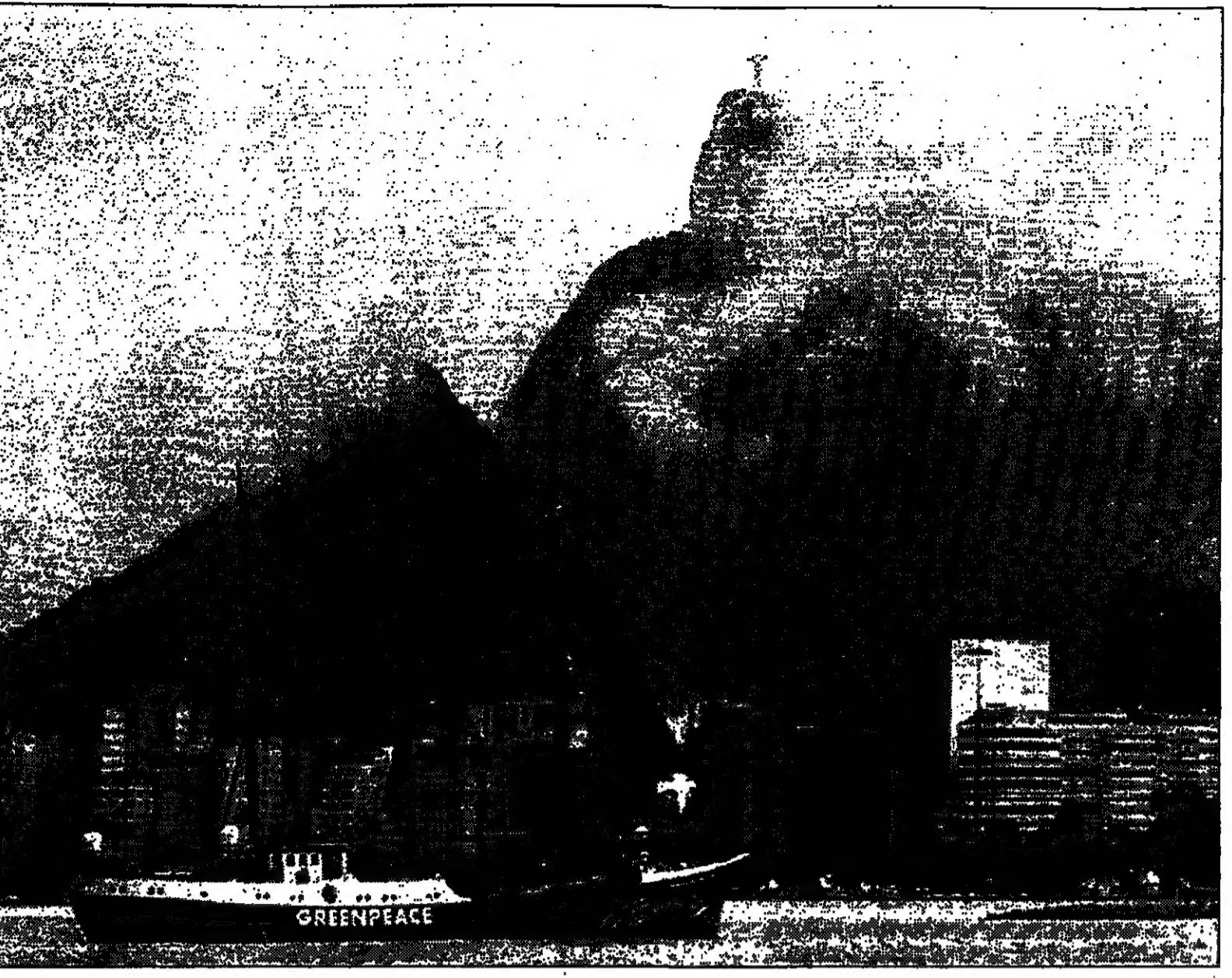
Alison Halford, the Merseyside assistant chief constable claiming sex discrimination, told an industrial tribunal that her boss, Kenneth Oxford, had publicly asked her if she was having an affair with a psychologist. Page 3

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Into battle: the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* passes Sugar Loaf mountain on its way into Rio where volunteers will mount protests

## Major fights to make Rio treaty 'signable'

BY ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON AND MICHAEL MCCARTHY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

JOHN Major promised yesterday that Britain will make every effort to sign a deal at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro to protect the world's endangered plant and animal species.

The prime minister sought to scotch fears that he would join President Bush in refusing to sign the so-called bio-diversity treaty, saying that he was "working very hard" to enable Britain to sign up.

The Treasury still has severe reservations about the way the draft treaty would allow the world's poorer nations to present industrialised countries with an open-ended bill for preserving their plant and animal life. The government is also concerned that the wording of the convention would commit the signatories to providing genetic and technological resources even if they were protected by patent and other property rights.

The draft bio-diversity convention, which was initiated at a meeting in Nairobi two weeks ago, cannot be altered again at this stage. However, Britain is looking at ways of attaching to the convention a declaration on financial principles to cut the risks. Ministers are also hoping to set rules of procedure for the spending of any funds, which would prevent the industrialised nations being heavily outvoted.

Mr Major will meet President Bush at Camp David this weekend to try to win his support for the Rio summit declaration. He hopes to be able to broker a deal before the summit falls apart in a clash between the rich and poor nations. Mr Bush has insisted that he will not sign anything which gives developing countries too much say in funding decisions.

Mr Major told MPs yesterday that the British government was "working very hard" to be able to sign the bio-diversity agreement. "We have played an important international role in order to achieve a convention that can generally be signed." However, he indicated that there could be no "open-ended commitment" to give more financial aid to developing countries.

In angry Commons exchanges yesterday Neil Kinnock, Labour's leader, accused the government of halving the British development aid budget over the past ten years. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, called the prime minister's defence of Conservative environmental credentials "pathetic". And Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, tabled a motion of no confidence in the government in an attempt to force a Commons debate on the environment in advance of the Rio summit.

The motion was signed by all the Liberal Democrat MPs and Mr Ashdown was last night trying to win Mr Kinnock's backing.

If Labour were to support the motion, there would have to be a debate before Mr Major leaves for America en route to Rio. Labour will discuss its tactics at a shadow cabinet meeting today.

The United Nations leader who came up with the amended text on bio-diversity yesterday issued an appeal for the prime minister to sign it. "I urge Mr Major very strongly to sign the treaty because it is for the benefit of everybody, not just one group of countries," Mustafa Tolba, director of the UN environment programme, said in Rio.

Dr Tolba, an Egyptian physicist who has run the UN programme for 17 years, said: "It would be a joke if countries did not sign the treaty, after we have been talking about the preservation of bio-diversity for four years, and species are becoming extinct every day."

He shrugged off criticisms of the compromised text he put forward after negotiations between 98 countries stalled in Nairobi two weeks ago. Yet Dr Tolba failed to address ambiguity in article 21 of the convention, which deals with new aid for developing countries of the Third World. This is likely to run into many millions of pounds and Britain and 18 other aid donor nations, members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, regard the wording as a key and possibly insuperable obstacle.

Dr Tolba emphasised that the treaty, which opens for signature on Friday, is not subject to renegotiation in Rio de Janeiro.

Patents attack, page 12  
Leading article, page 15

## Stamp duty exemption refused

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont dashed building societies' and estate agents' hopes last night by ruling out an extension of the eight-month exemption from stamp duty on home sales.

The exemption of the tax on the sale of properties for less than £250,000 was introduced last December as part of a package to boost the flagging housing market and reduce repossession. The government was told last night that the December package meant that repossession this year would be about 55,000 fewer than they would otherwise have been.

Labour said last night that the Chancellor's move was probably forced by the "parlous state of public finances". Margaret Beckett, shadow Treasury chief secretary, said that it vindicated Labour's charge that the deal had been a "pre-election con trick". She said: "The conditions it was supposed to address have certainly not improved."

She said that building societies predicted there could be up to 80,000 repossession this year. "The government should face its responsibility for Britain's record level of homelessness and allow the phased release of local authority capital receipts to be invested in housing."

Mr Lamont told the ten biggest lenders that it had always been made clear that the waiving of duty was temporary. At a meeting attended also by Michael Howard, environment secretary, Sir George Young, the housing minister, and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, the government pressed the building societies and banks to speed their mortgage rescue schemes.

Ministers said they had fulfilled their promise to pay income support for mortgage interest direct to the lenders: now the societies should meet their side of the bargain.

Life & Times, page 7

## Witches brew up toil and trouble on the Tube

BY SIMON TAIT  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MACBETH'S witches have failed to pass muster with a key arbiter of late 20th century public taste. London Transport Advertising. On behalf of its passengers, LTA has refused a poster for the English Shakespeare Company's production of the play and has been accused of censorship and philistinism by the director, Michael Bogdanov.

The poster, which has been used in Tokyo, Korea and Chicago without complaint, will not be seen on London Underground's District Line because of the 1514 drawing used on it by the German artist Hans Baldung Grien. For the crones in the drawing are naked, leaving them exposed to graffiti artists, LTA says. "I deplore the fact that an organisation of the importance of London Transport Advertising, who control what millions of people see as they travel daily around the world's greatest cultural centre, should see fit to deny the work of a 16th century artist of international acclaim and repute," Mr Bogdanov said. "Not only is it censorship and philistinism of an extreme kind, it is particularly tragic in the light of our European partners. The Paris Metro do not hesitate to promote the work of great European classicists. We really are a small-minded and prudish nation when it comes to this."

LTA said it was very conscious of its role in putting advertising before the public. "We have to make sure we do not offend the travelling public," a spokeswoman said. "We reserve the right not to accept posters which could attract graffiti. We had to tell the English Shakespeare Company their poster was not feasible."

In fact the drawing, entitled "Three Witches with a New Year's Greeting", which adorns the poster and the ESC's tour leaflet, does not reflect the content of the production in all respects. Contrary to some presentations of the play - notably Roman Polanski's 1970s film in which the witches appear nude - not only are the three fully clad in Mr Bogdanov's version, they first appear as over-dressed bag ladies. One of them is played by a man.

"Our education role is very important and we would do nothing to alienate our schools audiences," Sally Homer, the ESC's marketing manager, said. The production, billed as a "startling re-evaluation of Shakespeare's most infamous tragedy", has been touring the United Kingdom and its foreign venues with the poster since February. The ESC. Continued on page 18, col 4

## Hard hit private schools apply to 'opt in'

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT schools, many of which are suffering from the recession, yesterday joined the rush for grant maintained status. As hundreds of schools in the state system consider opting out of local authority control, some private schools would also like to join the centrally-funded education sector.

David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service, proposed that opting out should be open to all types of institution. Boarding schools might become grant maintained and fill gaps in the state system.

"Opting in" would offer a lifeline to independent boarding schools with declining rolls and compensate for the recent loss of state boarding places. Nine state boarding schools are already grant maintained, but the status is denied to the private sector.

Mr Woodhead argued in his organisation's magazine that the Treasury could be persuaded to pay for tuition where fee-paying schools complemented state provision, especially in rural areas. Cuts have removed state boarding from large parts of the country, where residential care by social services departments can be much more costly.

Independent schools have become increasingly aware of competition from the state sector, as more parents find it difficult to afford fees in the recession. William Waldegrave, the minister responsible for the citizen's charter, predicted this week that grant maintained schools would attract more pupils from independent schools.

Mr Woodhead said: "Why should opting-out be only in one direction? Extending opting out to independent boarding schools, and deciding eligibility on their individual merits and ability to offer complementary provision, would be a sensible extension of the grant maintained sector."

He said: "Britain has never had a national boarding policy, partly because it has had a Continued on page 18, col 5

Leading article and letters, page 15

Letters, page 15  
Job losses, page 19

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Life & Times, page 4



## Derbyshire police chief defends 'inefficient' force

By CRAIG SETON

THE publication of a report saying that Derbyshire police should be denied a government certificate of efficiency will have a devastating effect on the force, John Newing, its chief constable, said yesterday. "Neither the force nor the present police authority deserve such appreciation."

The report, by Geoffrey Dear, inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, on the state of the force and alleged underfunding by the Labour-led Derbyshire police committee, is to be made public

later this month. It follows an interim document earlier this year in which he said that the prospect for delivering an adequate and efficient service was bleak because of stringent financial cuts in operational areas.

It is now up to Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to decide whether to accept Mr Dear's conclusion. Under the Police Act 1964, Mr Clarke could order the force to be amalgamated or withhold its 51 per cent Home Office grant, but he is not expected

to take such draconian action. Mr Newing said yesterday that amalgamation would take too long and he thought that Mr Clarke would call a meeting to satisfy himself on the future commitment of the police authority to the county police service.

However it is represented, the end effect will be that some members of the public will believe this is a damning criticism of the force," Mr Newing said. He added that there were "genuine differences of professional judgment" between himself and Mr Dear.

Mr Dear's report follows two years of conflict with the police authority that began when he inspected the force in 1990. He concluded that it was hamstrung by bureaucratic controls imposed by councillors and by serious underfunding, with buildings and computer systems in poor condition. He conducted a fresh inspection last year and found that the situation had deteriorated. A freeze had been imposed on recruitment because of further cuts.

Mr Newing said that Mr Dear's earlier reports did little to help morale and he expected the new report would not improve matters. He has criticised Mr Dear for being alarmist and pessimistic in the language he used about the force's morale.

Mr Newing said that the force was underfunded in 1991-2, but that this year's budget of £74 million had more than restored cuts of £4.6 million over the previous two years. He said that the force had been reorganised three months ahead of schedule, police buildings had been improved and the recruitment freeze had ended.

He said that, despite his misgivings about Mr Dear's conclusions, they had been a powerful catalyst for change.

## Maxwell family details demanded

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THOUSANDS of pensioners who lost money in Robert Maxwell's collapsed empire demanded yesterday that his family disclose details of their assets. The call for information came as it was discovered that clues about the money may lie in a network of companies in Liechtenstein beyond the reach of British authorities.

As the pensioners made their claim, the government faced demands for an urgent Commons statement over the fact that 5,000 pensioners had been told that they would receive no more cash.

Michael Meacher, shadow social security secretary, told the House of Commons it was now clear "that Maxwell-controlled Liechtenstein companies have now been uncovered beyond the reach of both creditors and pensioners". He asked what steps the government intended to take to protect these pensioners from falling into poverty through no fault of their own

over the next few weeks. David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) asked what could be done to recover Maxwell money from abroad. "There are pensioners now who are living a life of destitution because the pension they expected to have been stolen from them by one of the most notorious of all crooks."

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, told the House that she could not insist that ministers make statements and none had indicated any intention to do so.

Past and present Maxwell employees are planning a protest march on the House of Commons next Monday. Ken Huddell, secretary of the Association of Mirror Pensioners, which has about 6,000 members, said that the reports confirmed his fears that Maxwell had hidden money from the authorities in order to provide for his family.

Macmillan flotation, page 19



Colour supplement: Lt Col Robin Hodges, of the blue-uniformed The King's Regiment, changing the guard with Major Jamie Blackett, of the red-clad The Coldstream Guards, at Buckingham Palace yesterday

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dental charges to be cut next month

Charges to patients for dental treatment are to be cut from July 8 after a decision yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, to reduce the fees paid to dentists by 7 per cent. Dentists' leaders said any reduction would increase the number of practitioners switching to private work.

The fee cut comes after a substantial overpayment to dentists. Since the introduction of their new contract in October 1990 they have been earning more than expected and would have ended the year with 23 per cent above their target income of £35.815 for 1992-3 set by the pay review body. In February the government demanded a cut of 13.8 per cent in fees but after protests shelved the decision until after the election. The overpayment was estimated by the health department to be costing £15 million a month.

The 7 per cent cut will be recommended to the Dental Rates Study Group meeting today but is certain to be implemented. It reduces earnings to about £40,000 on average, still over £4,000 above their target income, which included an 8.5 per cent recommended rise.

The cut will reduce the cost to patients of a dental examination from £3.75 to about £3.50 and a medium filling from £7.95 to about £7.40. The charge for a crown, now £56.25, would fall to about £52.30.

## Technology review

An urgent review of the national curriculum in technology was ordered by the education secretary yesterday. John Paton was reacting to two critical reports on the way the subject has developed in state schools. The initiative coincided with a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, which said that teachers found the curriculum unhelpful and difficult to understand. Many lessons were unsatisfactory. The National Curriculum Council had submitted confidential advice to Mr Paton that new regulations should be drawn up for the subject. David Paskall, reappointed to the council chairmanship yesterday, told Mr Paton changes were needed to reduce complexity at primary level and introduce more flexibility and choice in secondary schools. A new curriculum would raise teachers' morale.

## Bae cuts 640 jobs

British Aerospace is to shed 640 jobs in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The redundancies, announced to staff yesterday, involve just over half the workforce of British Aerospace Space Systems, which makes civilian and military satellites. The company blamed the loss of a big order to an American rival last month, and an urgent need to reduce costs. British Aerospace has been trying to find a buyer or merger partner for its loss-making space systems operation for almost nine months. Talks with potential partners were continuing, it said. The latest job losses will bring its redundancies this year to almost 3,000. Last year it shed more than 10,000. The company has been devastated by the combined effect of delays and cuts in defence spending and falling demand for new airliners and Rover cars.

## Ford offers insurance

Ford is to launch its own cheap insurance scheme to revive the market for small, high-performance cars, which has collapsed following rises in premiums of as much as 80 per cent this year. Insurers have penalised owners of so-called hot hatchbacks because they are twice as likely to crash as other drivers and some high-performance cars are five times likelier to be stolen than a family saloon. Ford said that sales of small hatchbacks have fallen 60 per cent. Executives say that its MotorQuote system will, on average, cut premiums for all Ford buyers by as much as 30 per cent. Eight insurers are linked to the system, which will let Ford dealers quote the lowest premium for each driver and may mean big savings on hot hatchbacks. Ford says that it will cut premiums by eliminating commission and by increasing car security.

## Prince to give awards

The Prince of Wales will present the awards to the winners of the 1992 community enterprise scheme, sponsored by The Times, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Business in the Community, at a ceremony at Edinburgh Castle on September 15. The scheme is in its seventh year and this year's aim was to identify imaginative and viable community-led building enterprises that met local needs. Entries closed at the end of March and during the next few weeks The Times will be featuring some of the more noteworthy projects. Lord Scarman, the scheme's chairman, said that the choice of venue for the presentation reflected the strong interest shown in the scheme by Scottish organisations over the past six years.

## Umbrella was shotgun

A shotgun disguised as an umbrella, above, has been seized by detectives. The device — believed to be the first of its kind found in Britain — was with a pump-action shotgun and ammunition in the car of John Portis, who is in charge of security at London nightclubs. Portis, 41, from Uxbridge, west London, was fined £700 at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court for possessing the guns without a licence. Garage workers valeting his car found the "umbrella" but at first did not realise it was a gun. "It looks like an ordinary City gent's brolly except it is a bit heavier and has a removable rubber tip which exposes the barrel," Det Con David McCallum said.

## Lottery syndicate win may be taxed

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish tax authorities have launched an investigation yesterday to determine whether the syndicate which made an estimated profit of £400,000 on the national lottery at the weekend should pay tax on its winnings.

Lotto winnings are normally tax free, but the syndicate's successful attempt to engineer a jackpot win by spending £900,000 to cover almost every combination of numbers in the game has left it open to the charge that it was not gambling but operating a commercial venture.

The Revenue Commissioners in Dublin said that all aspects of the affair would be examined. The most likely form of tax would be a capital gains penalty on the syndicate's net profit of £400,000, which could deprive it of up to £108,000.

The move was welcomed by some politicians who believe the syndicate was acting contrary to the spirit of the game and that, by forcing it to pay tax, the authorities would help to deter other groups from launching similar schemes.

The element of chance was eliminated and the ordinary punter was sidelined," said Gay Mitchell, chairman of the government's public accounts committee and one of the first to highlight the potential tax liability of the

syndicate. "These people were making an investment on which they had to get a return. If there was to be a loss, it would be a very small one. This was a business transaction and should be taxed like any other."

The syndicate, which is thought to consist of 28 people with stockbroking and bookmaking backgrounds, is refusing to accept this interpretation on the grounds that it was involved in a private business arrangement, not a commercial venture.

Stefan Klinecivic, an accountant from Cork, who masterminded the scheme, also pointed out yesterday that because Lotto officials successfully prevented them from completing the purchase of tickets covering all the 1.9 million combinations of numbers, there was still a significant chance they could lose. It is believed that by the time the jackpot was called the syndicate had spent £900,000, leaving it £73,000 short of completing the plan and with a one in ten chance of missing the jackpot.

Lotto officials said they could not comment on the possibility of taxing the syndicate. They said they were still waiting for the syndicate to claim its share of the £1.7 million jackpot which was divided with two other regular ticket holders.

## Arts group aims for new radio station

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LUMINARIES of the arts world have banded together to call on David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, to create a national radio station devoted to arts and culture.

The station would be funded mainly by investors from the recording, theatre, film, concert, publishing and other industries keen to promote artistic talent to a wider audience. Publicly funded arts bodies would also contribute. The station, Heritage Broadcasting, could take advertising or rely entirely on sponsorship revenue by sharing a frequency with the BBC.

The group, which includes the conductor Jeffrey Tate, the impresario Cameron Mackintosh, the writer and broadcaster Viscount Norwich and the former Arts Council finance director Anthony Field, has put its proposal to Mr Mellor and has requested a meeting with him.

Mr Field, chairman of Heritage Broadcasting, which lost out to Classic FM in the bidding for the first indepen-

dent national radio licence last year, said it was scandalous that the arts should be so heavily subsidised without being adequately promoted to the wider public on radio and television. "Only about 3 per cent of the public goes to museums, galleries and concerts. Even if that went up to 5 per cent, it would fill all the seats in the country. The dream of subsidised arts reaching 50 per cent of the population is impossible unless the arts are made available to radio."

Mr Tate said the station would not be just another cultural ghetto. "The whole point is greater accessibility and awareness of all the arts, from fine food, books and gardens, through to music, theatre and paintings and the sharing of our unique heritage. No other broadcaster is committed to this kind of programming. On the contrary, opportunities are closing for it."

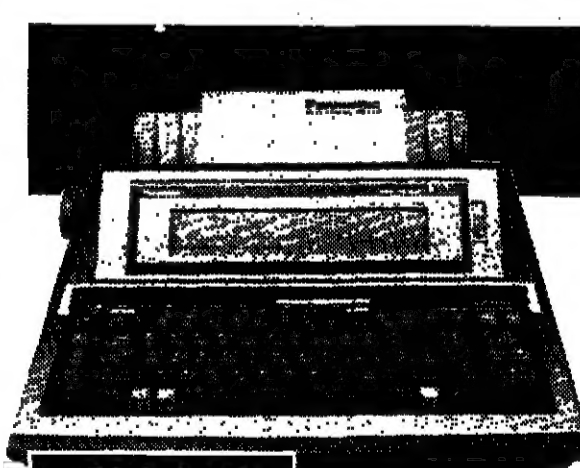
The station, backed by Baroness O'Cathain, managing director of the Barbican Centre, Nicholas Snowman, artistic director of the South Bank and Lord Thomson of Monifieth, a former IBA chairman, would broadcast a lot of arts and cultural documentaries and magazine programmes along the lines

of Radio 4's *Kaleidoscope*, covering all areas of the arts. As well as arts news and reviews there would be operas, plays and live concerts.

Lord Norwich, most recently the curator of the Sovereign exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, said: "We see this as a collaborative venture, combining public and private investment. It would be directly accountable to the department of national heritage, as distinct from the BBC and the Radio Authority, both of whom are committed to head-on competition in the development of news-based and music-based stations. We want to do something very different."

The Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA) and the National Campaign for the Arts (NCA) have welcomed the initiative. Colin Tweedy, ABSA director-general, described Heritage Broadcasting as "an original and positive use of public airwaves, which would create an exciting new zone of enterprise for the arts and independent broadcasters." Simon Mundy, NCA director, said: "At a time when Radio 3 has been hijacked for cricket, it seems like a very good idea."

## THIS WEEK'S WILD OFFERS AT WILDING.

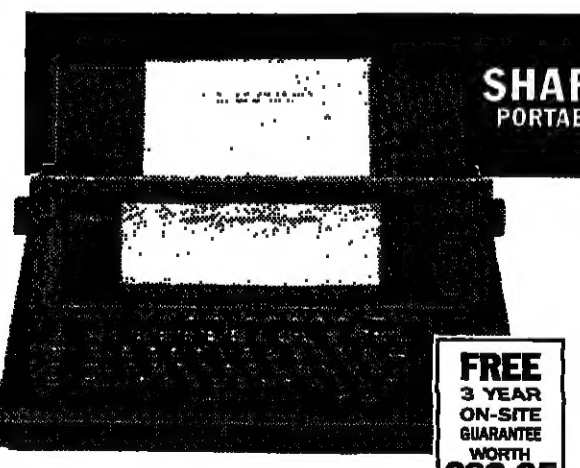


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## Face to face: former chief constable hears suspended officer tell tribunal of his 'outrageous' allegation

## Halford says Sir Kenneth accused her of an affair

By RONALD FAUX



Sir Kenneth arriving at the tribunal yesterday

ALISON Halford, the suspended assistant chief constable, yesterday faced her former chief constable, Sir Kenneth Oxford, at an industrial tribunal and said he had accused her of having an affair with a consultant psychologist.

Miss Halford, 52, who is claiming sex discrimination, said that Sir Kenneth, who made a surprise visit to the tribunal yesterday, had made the "outrageous" allegation in front of other senior officers in a coffee lounge at police HQ on Merseyside.

She said that in July 1986 she had bumped into Dr Eric Shepherd, who was arriving for an appointment with Sir Kenneth, and invited him into her office.

"It was coffee time and the coffee lounge was just a few doors down," Miss Halford, suspended on full pay pending a disciplinary hearing, told the tribunal in Manchester. "Dr Shepherd wanted to make a phone call so I went on ahead to the coffee lounge. The chief constable was there."

"He accused me of having an affair with Dr Shepherd," Sir Kenneth demanded to know why she was seeing the consultant. "The chief constable blew up. He said, 'Why did he come to see you?'"

He should have come to see me. Are you having an affair with him?" Her counsel, Eldred Tabachnik, QC, asked how she had responded. "I was, to use a Liverpool expression, 'gobsmacked,'" she said. "I didn't know what he was talking about. I kept my cool. You get used to keeping your cool with the chief constable. It was such an outrageous remark that I just rode it out." Miss

## The chief constable ran the force in an autocratic way. Nothing moved without his knowledge or consent

Halford was "highly embarrassed" by the episode.

At an earlier hearing Sir Kenneth had told Dr Shepherd to report directly to him. Miss Halford had found this hurtful and unnecessary because it diminished her responsibility. The chief constable had accused her of spending £20,000 of Merseyside money on Dr Shepherd and of feathering his and her own nest.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted. It was an appalling suggestion and came totally out of the blue. It was abominable," Miss Halford said. Sir Kenneth had made it clear that she had no further responsibility for the employment of Dr Shep-

herd. Mr Tabachnik asked: "Was there any justification for what he had said?" — "None whatsoever, it was totally unfair."

Mr Tabachnik asked about allegations that she had committed the force to spending £20,000 on staff training. She replied: "No. I note that Sir Kenneth is with us today. I take no pleasure in what I have to say, but regrettably this has to be

initiated." Miss Halford said that when she had requested Sir Kenneth's comments on secondments of detectives to a police training school, he had come into her office, thrown the file on her desk and said: "Take advice, madam. You need a holiday."

She was appalled by this and sent him a letter asking what she had done to deserve such rudeness. She said she seemed to have been singled out for especially brusque behaviour but nevertheless pledged her loyalty and best endeavours to him.

No reply came to her letter but the next day at the county horse show, Sir Kenneth had come up behind her and given her a bear hug. "I didn't know who it was. I am glad I didn't say anything rude or lash out. That was it. He has never done it again; he never would now, I am sure. I took it as an expression of regret."

Miss Halford is accusing Sir Philip Myers, HM Inspector of Constabulary, James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, the home secretary and Northamptonshire police authority of sex discrimination after nine attempts by her to win promotion failed.

The hearing continues today.



Miss Halford: "gobsmacked" by boss's remarks

## Welsh brothers accused of copying Kray twins

By ROBIN YOUNG

TWO Welsh brothers who had been schoolboy boxers modelled themselves on the Kray twins to establish a life of violent crime, a court was told yesterday.

The brothers, who were said to have promoted themselves as leading London "hard men", are accused of conspiring to rob a building society branch to pay off their debts.

Patrick Harrington, for the prosecution, said that Leighton Frayne, 31, and his brother Lindsay, 25, of Newbridge, Gwent, had dressed like the Krays, frequented their old haunts, befriended their acquaintances and visited the twins in prison. Ronnie and Reggie Kray were jailed in 1969 for murder and a string of other violent crimes.

Mr Harrington told Newport Crown Court, Gwent, that the Fraynes had both served jail sentences two years ago. They used their time to become pen-pals with the Krays. They tried to sell memorabilia about the twins and sought to establish a film contract for making a sequel to the film *The Krays*.

Like the Krays, they wore dark, double-breasted suits, white shirts, red or dark ties, and swept-back hair. They visited London regularly and impersonated the Krays for hours each day. At weekends they would visit Ronnie Kray



Leighton Frayne, left, and Lindsay Frayne



in Broadmoor before going on to London and visiting the Krays' haunts.

Mr Harrington said that the brothers recruited their own minder as part of a gang and got themselves London girl friends. They began buying guns in London, either for their own protection or to sell for profit.

They terrorised victims in a manner reminiscent of the Krays, Mr Harrington said. In one incident, Lindsay Frayne held a replica pistol between the lips of a man who was being held down by Leighton and another man in the bedroom of a London flat. The victim, James Campbell, a former friend of the Krays, who had refused to be searched for a bugging device, suffered cuts to his arm and forehead in the incident.

Mr Harrington said that a room in the Kings Oak Hotel in High Beach, Essex, was "made available" for the brothers' use on their visits from Wales. The pair, who had signed on for the dole at home when their business selling Kray souvenirs failed, ran up a slate of £1,000.

When the barman, Jim O'Neill, challenged the brothers about their debt, Mr Harrington said: "The Fraynes with their minder Paul Edwards followed him to the toilet, slapped him in the face, grabbed him around the neck and told him never to mention the slate again. Mr O'Neill was so frightened that he urinated in his trousers."

The Fraynes deny conspiracy to rob the Halifax Building Society in Newbridge. Lindsay Frayne also denies robbing the building society of £9,820 with another accomplice. Both brothers deny conspiring to sell firearms and possessing sawn-off shotguns.

Mr Harrington said that the Newbridge robbery was planned when the Fraynes were in substantial debt, but they had decided not to carry it out together because their similarity might be noted.

Two women cashiers were so terrified by two masked men with a sawn-off pump-action shotgun that they had since been unable to return to work, Mr Harrington said. At the end of the robbery, Lindsay Frayne held a gun while going backwards out of the door, just like in a TV film. The case continues.

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## Gerbil was cooked in deep fryer

A MAN who had been sniffing lighter fuel laughed as he cooked his gerbil in a deep-fat fryer. Mid Staffordshire magistrates were told yesterday.

Jerry Farrell, 29, took the animal out of its cage by its tail and put it into a wire basket which he then lowered into the boiling fat, the court was told.

A friend later told RSPCA officers that he could hear the gerbil splashing around in the hot fat and making a squeaking noise. The gerbil's remains were taken to a vet who carried out a post-mortem examination which showed that the animal's flesh had been entirely cooked. Little remained apart from a greasy carcass. The animal either scalded to death or drowned in the fat.

Mr Christopher Lee, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said that it was a calculated act of cruelty which killed the gerbil in circumstances "which would repulse most right thinking members of society".

Mr Farrell, of Stafford, admitted cruelly ill-treating the animal at his home in February and the case was adjourned for four weeks for social inquiry reports. Mr Farrell was granted unconditional bail.

Mr Lee said Mr Farrell had earlier that day told a friend he was thinking of killing himself. At one point he had set fire to a pile of his clothes. When Mr Farrell was seen by an RSPCA inspector he admitted what he had done, saying he had been "feeling rather down" at the time. He added: "I feel very disgusted with myself."

Robert Chadwick, for Mr Farrell, accepted the case came at the top of the scale of cruelty to animals but said Mr Farrell had a "considerable psychiatric history".

## Somerville students break ranks

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

A SPLINTER group of students at Somerville College, Oxford, has lodged an unexpected protest against the hard-fought legal campaign to take their case to court if he rules against them.

However, 47 students have signed a letter opposing legal action and claiming that the diversity of opinion within the college has not been fairly represented. "While we feel the debate concerning the acceptance of men to Somerville will inevitably continue, we deplore the efforts to change this debate from an ethical to a legal one," the letter says.

A petition to stop the new

admissions policy is being studied by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Somerville's visitor, and those opposed to mixed admission are determined to take their case to court if he rules against them.

Charlotte Pringle, a second-year postgraduate and one of the signatories, said yesterday that she supported the decision to admit men.

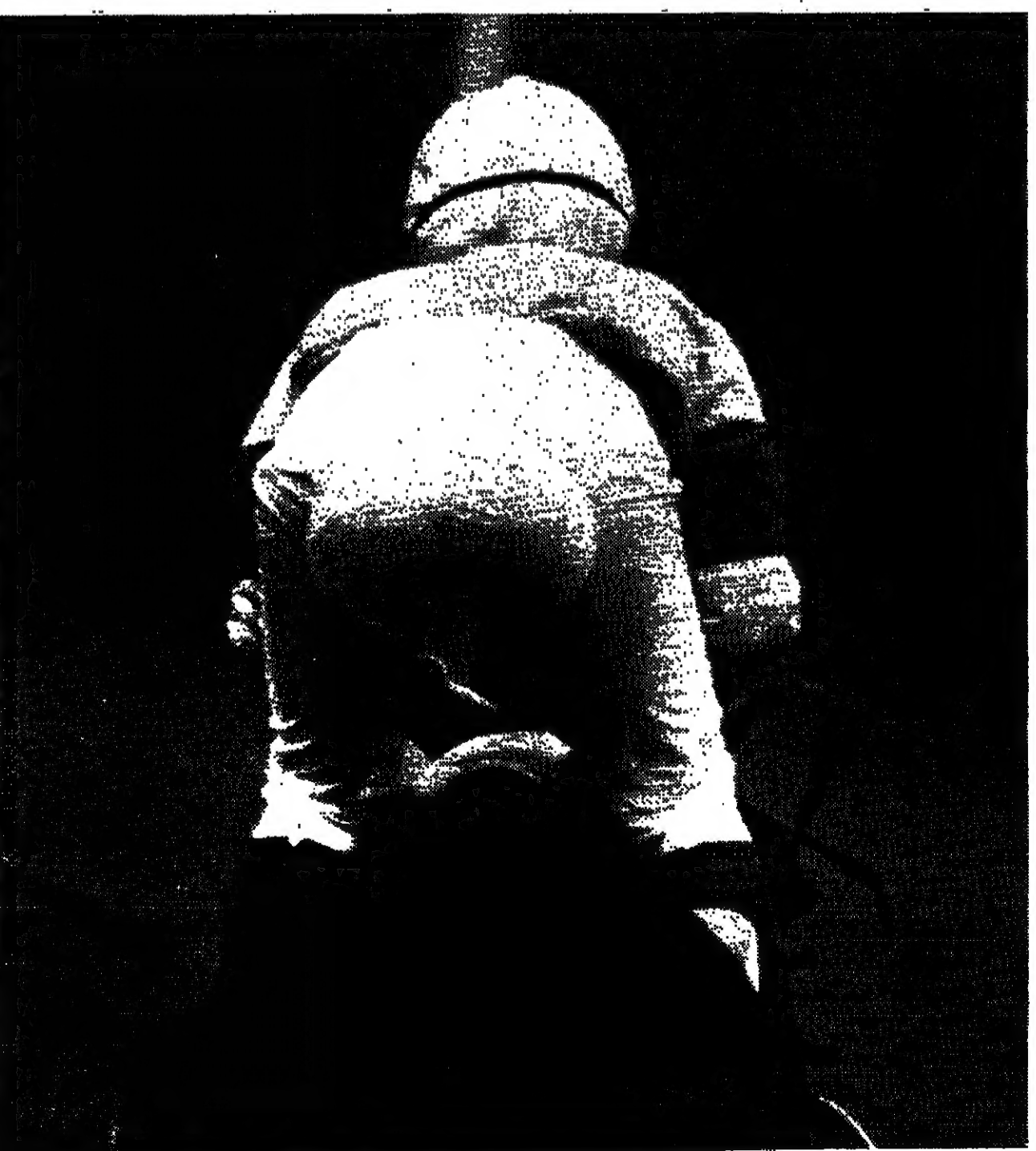
She said: "From a pragmatic point of view it's the sensible thing to do. In the letter, I wanted people to have the chance to speak out without going to a JCR meeting where they would be outnumbered." It was difficult for dissenters to break ranks, she added.

"I think most people applying to the university want to go to a mixed college, which would give Somerville a wider

mix of applicants. People are worried that the commitment to women would somehow evaporate, which seems a hysterical reaction."

Rakhi Kumar, a first-year English undergraduate, said that dragging the dispute into the courts would merely postpone the inevitable and harm the college. "There are serious implications for the future of the college. Something has to be said about the damage done to the atmosphere," she said. "This is a divided college and the point of our petition was to show that."

The hearing continues today.



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Learn why boules is set to become an Olympic sport, and how a small patch of earth in the South of France changed one man's life forever. Weekend Times

## Ely rocks to rave in the nave

By ALAN HAMILTON

AFTER last week's news that a church choir in Plymouth had resigned in protest at the introduction of "happy-clappy" tambourine and guitar music to Sunday services, reports from East Anglia suggest that yet more good tunes need snatching back from the devil. Ely Cathedral is to stage a rave.

As currently understood, a rave is an event at which large numbers of young people gather, often in a warehouse or barn and usually until dawn, to achieve transports of delight through the playing of exceptionally loud electronic music, sometimes aided by the use of illicit substances. The police are frequent and unwelcome guests. Until now, raves have not been widely known for any connection with Christian worship.

Faced with the inexorable decline of an audience that is no longer drawn by hymns ancient or comparatively

modern, the dean and chapter of Ely have determined to speak to a wider congregation. The rave in the nave on June 26 will feature bands playing funk, indie and house music, none of it by Wesley but all of it at sufficiently high volume to raise the roof of one of the outstanding medieval buildings of Europe. The dean expects a congregation of at least 500, rather better than an average evensong, paying £3 a ticket.

Critics say that the cathedral, known as the Ship of the Fens, is no place for such antics, but the dean, the Very Rev Michael Higgins, a Bach man himself, said yesterday it was high time the diocese did something for the young people of the locality.

"My idea was to provide a pop music event for young people. I thought we ought to be doing something for the younger generation, and this is what they have come up

with. It will be a Christian event," Mr Higgins said. "I cannot pretend that the music is my scene, but it speaks very powerfully to the younger generation."

Mr Higgins admitted he had had some ill-informed reaction at the very mention of the word "rave" — a word liable to much misinterpretation — but most of the cathedral congregation had shown sympathy towards the notion. "It will be a worship experience. We are here to provide a ministry to all sectors of the community, and all the bands are coming along to promote the Christian faith."

Andrew Gear, 33, the diocesan youth officer, said the church had to meet young people where they were, and with their own music. The Ely event would be a Christian occasion with a true act of worship as its climax. It will, the dean promises, end promptly at 1am.



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# Kidney donor cards failing, say patients

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICE CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are considering setting up a computerised central record of whether people are willing to donate their kidneys. Hospitals would have immediate access to the information, so that doctors would know of a patient's wishes without having to ask relatives.

The possible change to the donor card system is prompted by the need to make more organs available, after the number of transplant operations fell last year for the first time in four years.

None of the 1,766 transplant operations last year resulted from the death of someone carrying a donor card, according to the British Kidney Patient Association. Although 25 per cent of the population say they have signed a card, many fewer carry them.

The claim was disputed by the transplant service, which matches kidneys to donors. A spokeswoman said that it was not normally recorded whether donors had signed cards and there was anecdotal evidence that some, at

least, had. Elizabeth Ward, president of the British Kidney Patient Association, said that the donor card system, introduced 21 years ago, had failed. "We have to accept that it is not the means, and never will be, of procuring sufficient organs for transplant," she said.

The only answer was an opt-out scheme under which hospitals would have an automatic right to use the organs of a patient who had died, unless that person had registered that he or she did not wish their organs to be used, she said.

An opinion poll commissioned by the association showed that seven out of ten people said that they would agree to donate their kidneys after their death and six out of ten were in favour of an opt-out scheme.

"Almost three quarters say they wish to help others after their death and their wishes are not being respected," Mrs Ward said. Support for opting out had doubled since the last survey four years ago. France, Austria, Belgium

and several states in the United States have introduced opt-out schemes but there is reluctance among doctors and MPs in Britain, who believe the culture here is of opting in. "Traditionally, we have preferred organ donation to be seen as a positive gift," Natalie-Jane Macdonald, head of the British Medical Association's ethics division, said.

Mrs Ward said that Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, was sympathetic to the idea of opting out but would not introduce legislation without the support of the medical profession.

In a letter to Mrs Ward, Mrs Bottomley said: "I do appreciate your frustration at the pace of change but the consensus of the profession is crucial. At present, professional opinion is still divided and I think that you are doing precisely the right thing to seek to influence views through approaching health authorities with the findings of the survey."

Mrs Bottomley said that health department officials



Awaiting a donor: Sarah Bowles, 10, and her mother in hospital in London. Her first transplant failed

were looking at ways of including details of patients' wishes about donation on the NHS central register, a computerised index of all patients and their GPs, expected to be

introduced within two to three years.

The number of kidney transplant operations fell 6 per cent last year, from 1,870 to 1,758, as a result of fewer

fatal accidents on the roads, the chief source of transplant organs. The decline has pushed the number waiting for a transplant over 4,000 for the first time.

Increasing the number of transplants would save money and lives, Mrs Ward said. The cost of a transplant is £10,000, compared with £21,000 a year for dialysis.

## Lyell backs advocacy rights

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Nicholas Lyell, QC, the attorney-general, has supported a renewed attempt by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the head of the government legal service for their lawyers to be granted advocacy rights in crown courts.

The appeal by Barbara Mills, QC, and Sir James Nourse, QC, has been made direct to the Lord Chancellor and the country's most senior judges, placing in their hands the controversial question of whether the Bar's monopoly should be broken.

The debate was fuelled yesterday with Sir Nicholas's statement that he "supports the case for extended rights of audience for government lawyers". This should come about "by evolutionary change".

Last month a previous attempt for crown court advocacy right by lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service and various government departments was rejected.

Law Report, L&T section, page 11

## Tree of life may yield cancer drug

Research suggests that the English yew will live up to its pagan name in the fight against a deadly disease. Nick Nuttall reports

THE English yew, known to pagan man as the tree of life but seen by his modern descendants as a poisonous tree useful only for keeping cattle from graveyards, may have been aptly named in ancient times.

Yew clippings from the maze at Longleat, Wiltshire, are being harvested by scientists searching for new anti-cancer drugs. The leaves of the 16,000 trees, *Taxus baccata*, contain between 20 and 30 natural compounds, some of which scientists believe could be developed into tumour fighting medicines.

Paul Jenkins, a chemist at Leicester University, and Nicholas Lawrence, a lecturer at the University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, have developed techniques that could turn the compounds into a plentiful family of cancer-attacking agents. They say that the research could lead to farmers, under EC pressure to reduce food production, finding the yew a profitable crop.

There has been a surge of interest in the cancer-fighting properties of the yew after the discovery in 1971 of a substance called taxol in the bark of the Pacific yew, *Taxus brevifolia*. Clinical trials of taxol for treating breast and ovarian cancer are under way in the United States.

British Myers, the company working with the US National Institutes of Health and investing millions of dollars

on the drug, expects to seek government approval to market taxol this year.

Working with the bark-derived taxol has its drawbacks. Stripping bark kills the trees and is so inefficient that 12,000 are needed to get just 25 kilograms of the drug. This has aroused fierce concern for the virgin rainforests of northwest America.

Under an agreement with Longleat, 2,000 tonnes of clippings will be provided for the British scientists so they can investigate a compound in the leaves called baccatin III, which is similar to taxol. Although baccatin III is ineffective against cancer, the scientists plan to turn it into taxol, greatly increasing the amount available and ending the need to strip bark.

The English yew's leaves are believed to hold more than 20 promising compounds, some of which the scientists hope to adapt into a series of even more effective cancer drugs. The work, which is being funded by the Science and Engineering Research Council and the Dutch company Pharmachemie, could lead to a synthetic version of taxol in three years. It highlights the importance of preserving the range of plants and animals surviving mostly in the developing world.

Plants, some of which have appeared worthless, can suddenly be found to harbour compounds that tackle a new disease or indicate promising research opportunities. British researchers, including scientists at Kew Gardens, west London, have been experimenting with compounds from plants, such as the Moreton Bay Chestnut, *Castanopseum australe*, and the black mulberry, *Morus nigra*, which appear to inhibit the Aids virus. Another anti-Aids compound has been detected in the Madagascan periwinkle, *Catharanthus roseus*, at the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Kew scientists have also isolated a compound from a group of flowering plants called the bugles, or *Ajuga*, which act as natural insecticides. The compound appears to leave pests infertile and vulnerable to natural predators.



Bugle plant: provides a natural insecticide

## BT cuts off listed green phone box

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BT FACES prosecution after demolishing a grade II listed telephone box apparently without permission and erecting a glass replacement in the centre of a hamlet in the North York Moors.

The 1935 box, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, was a landmark at Fangdale Beck, mainly because it was painted green at the request of the late Earl of Faversham, on whose estate the hamlet lay.

BT said that the box had been vandalised beyond repair, but villagers say that this was used as an excuse to replace it. Stuart Cope-

land, of the North York Moors National Park authority, said: "We have had a lot of trouble with BT over its insensitivity in replacing boxes in the national park and conservation areas."

A report to the authority's planning committee will recommend prosecution of BT for defying the box's protected status and an order requiring BT to return the box, listed in 1990.

Mr Copeland said BT had been told that listed building consent was needed. BT said yesterday that the box had been out of service since April and had become a safety hazard.

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Changing faces of Labour leadership

# Phrase-maker Kaufman leaves frontline fight

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

GERALD Kaufman, the man who would have been foreign secretary had Labour won the general election on April 9, announced yesterday that he was bowing out of frontline Labour politics.

After the decision of Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley to step down from the leadership, Mr Kaufman became the latest top-flight Labour politician to step aside for a new generation without having achieved cabinet office.

Mr Kaufman's decision, at the age of 61, not to stand again for the shadow cabinet and Labour's national executive committee (NEC) means that the new leader, almost certainly John Smith, will have lost the sharpest tongue on the front bench.

Mr Kaufman, who has had 18 years of front-bench politics, five in government and 13 in Opposition, leaves after a career in which the Parliamentary Labour Party's high regard for his talents has never apparently been shared by the public at large, although his constituents in Manchester, Gorton, gave him a record victory on April 9.

Not the most telegraphic of Labour's team, Mr Kaufman was denied high-profile roles

at election times. However, successive Labour leaders, and particularly Mr Kinnock, have seen him as one of their biggest assets. No Labour shadow politician has been more adept at mastering a brief, or at demolishing opponents in the Commons with a clinical and savage line in invective.

Labour MPs elected him to the shadow cabinet 12 times in succession, and he was always at, or near, the top of the annual contest, coming first on four occasions.

Although they are from opposite wings of the party, Mr Kaufman could not have served Mr Kinnock more loyally. When Mr Kinnock decided that Labour's unilateral defence policy had to be ditched, he and his closest confidants agreed to "send for Gerald". Mr Kaufman was put in charge of the defence policy review group and eased Labour's biggest policy somersault through the party with aplomb.

Mr Kaufman promised yesterday to remain active in politics to help Labour, "which has given me so much and to which I owe so much".

That loyalty to the Labour cause has meant that Mr

Kaufman has never refrained from upbraiding, usually in private, those whom he believed were doing it a disservice. But, again to help the party, the criticism has usually been levelled in private. Although others were thinking it, Mr Kaufman was the only shadow cabinet member to tell Michael Foot that he should quit as leader before the 1983 general election. The phrase-maker supreme was to warn the NEC that the 1983 manifesto was the "longest suicide note in history".

Mr Kaufman's departure, along with that of Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley, and the election of two existing members of the shadow cabinet into their jobs, will mean that several new faces are certain to come into Labour's political vanguard in the July elections. Harriet Harman, George Robertson and Martin O'Neill are among those who will hope to seize their chance.

Mr Kaufman denied yesterday that his departure was prompted by despair, and said that he had decided two years ago that if Labour did not win the election he would stand down. In fact, Mr

Kaufman, who had always been level-headed in private about Labour's position, genuinely believed, along with his colleagues, that the party was heading for victory.

He said yesterday: "I think it is right to make way for another political generation who, under the leadership to be elected next month, can carry the Labour party through to success in the next general election and into the next century."

Mr Kaufman succeeded last year, after trying for many years, in winning election to the national executive committee, recognition that his talents were appreciated by constituency activists. His NEC position seems likely to be taken by Mr Kinnock, who is seeking election to the constituency section.

Mr Kaufman has been immersed in Labour politics since he left Oxford and entered journalism, working as a *Daily Mirror* researcher. He wrote sketches for the television programme *That Was The Week That Was* and was later political correspondent for the *New Statesman*. He worked at Downing Street as one of Harold Wilson's closest prime ministerial aides, before entering the Commons in 1970. In the 1974-79 Labour government he served as a minister at environment and industry.

Mr Kaufman, belying his unflattering *Spartan Image* portrayal, is the ultimate politician's politician. He will now have more time to devote to his other passions, the cinema and the theatre.

His capacity to bait Tory opponents is unlikely to diminish. He has called Margaret Thatcher "the thieving magpie", Michael Heseltine a "commisair" and John Major "the man who came to dither". There are, no doubt, more gibes to come.



Moving on: Gerald Kaufman, who is leaving front-bench politics, yesterday

## County councils offered reprieve

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

COUNTY councils may survive in some parts of the country thanks to a change of emphasis in the terms of reference for the biggest review of local government for two decades to be announced today.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, will tell the Commons this afternoon that he has an open mind about the future of local government, which is to be investigated by a special commission. His predecessor, Michael Heseltine, in draft guidance to the commission issued last year, made it clear that he expected to see a single tier of all-purpose councils based largely on existing district councils.

In a change of emphasis designed to stamp his mark on the process, Mr Howard will make it clear that while the government still believes that unitary authorities offer the best solution, he does not wish to prejudge the outcome. He believes that the commission, chaired by Sir John Banham the outgoing director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, should be allowed to make recommendations for change based on local needs and conditions.

Mr Howard argues that it would be wrong for him to prejudge the review before the commission has even begun its work and has said that the existing two tier structure may be appropriate in some areas.

Today's announcement is expected to include a timetable for the review which will require the commission to start work in Avon and Humberside. Plans to include Cleveland in the first wave are thought to have been dropped.

The first of the new all-purpose councils is due to come into existence in April 1994, but the commission will take five years to complete the review, taking several areas at a time. Mr Howard has made it clear that he will reserve the right to reject recommendations which he believes are not in the interests of good government or local people. Each proposed change will also have to be justified on financial grounds, although to succeed recommendations will not have to show immediate cost savings. Ministers accept that an upheaval in local government will cost money.

The prospects for survival of the majority of the 39 county councils in England are bleak. But the new tone set by Mr Howard means that some, which would certainly have faced extinction under Mr Heseltine, may survive either as part of a two-tier system or as unitary councils in their own right. Mr Howard believes that in some cases the 1974 reorganisation ignored the loyalties of local people. He will tell the commission that its overriding principle should be that the new councils command local loyalty.

A number of old county names, extinguished in the last big reform of 1974, are also likely to re-emerge as "non-administrative counties" with lords lieutenant, cricket teams and restored to their place on the postal map. They would, however, have no elected county council, all local government functions being run by unitary districts within their boundaries. Middlesex, the East Riding of Yorkshire, Westmorland and Cumberland have been suggested as contenders for the new status.

Big cities such as Bristol and Hull are almost certain to regain unitary status. Districts based on old counties, such as Rutland and Huntingdonshire, are also regarded as strong candidates.

## Tax package 'aids economy'

By Arthur Leathley and Robert Morgan

THE taxation package launched by the government before the election will play an important part in setting up Britain as an effective partner in an open European market, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons yesterday.

Under the Conservatives' taxation changes of the 1980s, Britain had changed from a country which, 20 years ago, had a "weak and fragile economy" and feared competition from Europe to one which was looking forward to a new market of 350 million consumers.

The creation of lower income tax rates would act as

the incentive necessary to attract outside investment and encourage Britain's wealth creators to thrive within the EC. Half of American investment in the EC already came into Britain, and just under half now came from Japan, testament to Britain's potential for economic success.

Mr Dorrell was moving the second reading of the finance bill which implements those provisions in the Budget not contained in the bill rushed through Parliament just before the election. He said that the reduction of the basic rate of tax to 20p was not an electoral gimmick but built on previous Conservative reforms. Already four million

people were within the 20p tax band, which would be extended when it was prudent to do so.

An important element of the Budget was the decision to combine the traditional spring Budget with the autumn statement in a single piece of legislation announced in December, starting next year. It would benefit employers, who currently had to arrange two changes of tax codes each year, although Mr Dorrell accepted there would be higher costs initially. Employees would also benefit by seeing tax cuts in their pay packets at the beginning of the tax year, instead of in mid-May, as at present.

## Tories take heat out of European contest

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

THE battle for the chairmanship of the Tory European affairs committee was defused last night as Conservative anti-federalists boycotted the contest to concentrate their fire against the bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty.

Today's election is now between two MPs acceptable to the government, Sir Peter Hordern, whose views are closely aligned to those of John Major, and John Butterfill, chairman of the Conservative group on Europe.

Sir Peter, one of the party's elder statesmen and a member of the Tory backbench 1922 executive committee, looks to be favourite for the post although Mr Butterfill is buttressed by support from the right-wing 92 group.

The anti-federalist tactic will inevitably weaken the ability of the committee to act as the voice of Tory backbenchers on European policy. The post of chairman took on a fresh prominence last year when the former cabinet minister and new party chairman Sir Norman Fowler put himself forward and successfully saw off the challenge of the ardent anti-federalist William Cash.

Mr Cash, MP for Stafford, said yesterday: "The fact that we have now indicated in voting against a three-line whip on this vital treaty means it would be incongruous to stand for election at this stage."

Christopher Gill, MP for Ludlow and a former vice-chairman of the backbench committee, also said he was not standing because he so clearly opposed government policy.

The Tory anti-federalist MPs begin their campaign today to try to write parliamentary safeguards into the European Communities (Amendment) bill to prevent further moves towards closer unity. The committee scrutiny of the legislation will dominate the Commons agenda for the next few weeks.

One of the key amendments calls for a national referendum on the Maastricht treaty. Although a group of Labour EC-sceptics look certain to support the Tory rebels, the official Labour stance remains opposed to a referendum.

## EC will not force rise in zero VAT, says Major

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

JOHN Major pledged yesterday that there was no question of Britain being forced by the EC to charge VAT on such items as public transport, food and children's clothes.

Sir Teddy Taylor, a prominent Euro-sceptic, had asked for an assurance from the prime minister that there would be "no surrender" from the government at next Tuesday's meeting of EC finance ministers in Strasbourg. He said that

Christiane Scrivener, the EC tax commissioner, had threatened "that you will be taken to court and Britain would be in real trouble if we did not agree to charge VAT on food, gas, electricity and children's clothing".

Mr Major said: "There is no question of the UK being forced to give up our zero rates. They are guaranteed in the sixth VAT directive."

The question was whether the EC Council of Ministers should agree to a legally bind-

ing minimum rate of VAT. "We do not believe that is necessary for the completion of the single market," Mr Major said. Other related issues remained to be resolved, including the question of excise duties, he said.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is blocking EC proposals which would mean large increases in duties on gin and whisky, hitting British sales to southern EC states, while wine would be spared.

Mr Major said: "We cannot accept an agreement that would force member states to impose large increases in duty on spirits to the detriment of our industry."

Britain agreed with the EC some while ago that it could continue to levy a zero rate of VAT and Mr Major, who pledged no VAT increases during the election campaign, does not believe there is any threat to that arrangement.

The situation could be altered only by a new directive which would require the unanimous agreement of member states. But the EC commissioner has revived what British ministers see as the "theological" question of whether there should be an agreed minimum rate of VAT across the EC (likely to be 15 per cent, below Britain's rate of 17.5 per cent).

Britain argues against that in principle, believing it should be left to markets to pull rates together and insisting on maintaining fiscal sovereignty.

## Spending watchdog makes early start

By Sheila Gunn

ROBERT Sheldon, the former Labour Treasury minister, is favourite to be re-elected chairman of the Commons public accounts committee, which acts as guardian of the public purse, later this month.

Although the select committees, which shadow government departments, will not be set up before November, Tory and Labour business managers have agreed to an early start to the public accounts committee because of its special role in checking on government spending.

Mr Sheldon, who has been its chairman since 1983, is expected to be selected again at the first meeting next week. The committee includes six

new members: Michael Ancram, Conservative MP for Devon; Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Worthing; James Cosham, Tory MP for Gillingham; Michael Stern, Conservative MP for Bristol North West; John Horam, Conservative MP for Orpington; and David Nicholson, Tory MP for Taunton.

The others are the Labour MPs Dennis Davies, Terry Davis, Kim Howells and Alan Williams; the Tory MPs Richard Page and Michael Shersby; and the Liberal Democrat MP Robert Maclean. Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, will be an honorary member.

## MPs give World Service warm reception

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

THE BBC World Service is praised in a report to MPs today, in spite of complaints that more than 40 per cent of listeners had difficulty in hearing programmes.

The National Audit Office asked its sister bodies in more than 20 offices worldwide to tune in to the World Service on three days to test the success of the BBC's £166 million investment over ten years in improving reception.

The result was that 58 per cent reported good reception but 27 per cent said they had to pay close attention and 15 per cent could not find the programme. Hungary, Turkey, Sierra Leone and Venezuela had the worst reception. There were also problems

reported from Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland and Thailand.

Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC's director general, and John Tusa, head of the World Service, will be questioned by the Commons public accounts committee about the findings.

The report recommends that the Foreign Office should allow the World Service more authority to decide minor changes in the amount of broadcasting time for each country. "The World Service has to agree every permanent change in amount of time broadcast with the Foreign Office," the audit office says. "It does not seem cost-effective for the World Service and the department to have to agree every marginal change in output."

After visiting rival stations, including the Voice of America and Deut-

sche Welle, the auditors report a generally satisfactory system of financial management at the World Service, which transmits 817.75 hours a week in 38 languages to an audience of about 120 million. Tributes had come from Mikhail Gorbachev, who said that he relied on the World Service when held captive during the failed Soviet coup, and the Beirut hostages Terry Waite, Terry Anderson and Tom Sutherland.

The auditors found little attempt to discover why programme costs varied from between £500 and £1,500. Studios were often left empty for too long.

National Audit Office: management of the BBC World Service (Stationery Office, £7)

Leading article, page 15

### Recommended final offer by HSBC Holdings plc to acquire the ordinary shares of £1 each in Midland Bank plc

On 2 June 1992 the boards of HSBC Holdings plc ("HSBC Holdings") and Midland Bank plc ("Midland") jointly announced that agreement had been reached on the terms of a recommended final offer ("Final Offer") to be made by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited ("Schroders") on behalf of HSBC Holdings for all the ordinary shares of £1 each in Midland other than the Midland shares already owned by the HSBC Holdings group. Terms defined in the Original Offer Document dated 8 May 1992 have the same meanings where used in this advertisement. The Final Offer will be made on the following basis:

**Final Offer:**  
For every 100 Midland shares 120 new HSBC Holdings shares and 665 nominal of new HSBC Holdings bonds and so in proportion for any other number of Midland shares held.

**Cash Election:**  
Under the Final Offer, accepting Midland shareholders may, as an alternative, irrevocably elect to receive cash instead of all but not part only of the new HSBC Holdings bonds to which they would otherwise be entitled on acceptance of the Final Offer on the basis of £1 in cash, free of all expenses, for every £1 nominal of such new HSBC Holdings bonds (the "Cash Election"). Accepting Midland shareholders who validly make the Cash Election will receive:  
For every 100 Midland shares 120 new HSBC Holdings shares and 665 in cash and so in proportion for any other number of Midland shares held.

The Cash Election will be conditional on the Final Offer becoming or being declared unconditional in all respects. The Final Offer values each Midland share at 471p and the whole of the share capital of Midland, including the shares held by the HSBC Holdings group and assuming full exercise of all share options, at approximately £3.9 billion (HK\$54.5 billion). This value is based upon an estimate of the value of the new HSBC Holdings shares provided by Schroders and Cazenove & Co., based upon the middle market quotation of HSBC Holdings ordinary shares of HK\$47.75 (338.62p) as derived from the London Stock Exchange Daily Official List on 1 June 1992, the latest practicable date prior to the announcement of the Final Offer and the active Hong Kong dollar exchange rate (being the mid-price quoted by Reuters at 5.00 p.m. (London time) on 1 June 1992) and an estimate of the value of the bonds provided by Schroders and Cazenove & Co.

The full terms and conditions of the Final Offer, including the Cash Election, will be set out in the formal Final Offer Document which, together with Supplementary Listing Particulars, will be posted by Schroders as soon as practicable.

An extraordinary general meeting of HSBC Holdings has been convened for Tuesday, 9 June 1992 at which HSBC Holdings' shareholders will be asked to approve, *inter alia*, the acquisition of Midland and the steps required to be taken in connection with it. Additional forms of proxy for use at the extraordinary general meeting (and at the separate general meeting of the holders of ordinary shares of HK\$10 each which is to be held immediately following the extraordinary general meeting) are being sent to HSBC Holdings' shareholders and are also available on request from either of HSBC Holdings' Registrars, National Westminster Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, P.O. Box 82, Cannon House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS39 7NH, United Kingdom (Tel: 0272 306666) or Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, Hopewell Centre, 19th Floor, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong (Tel: 8628628). Shareholders of HSBC Holdings are reminded that in order to be valid forms of proxy must be deposited at the above mentioned offices of either of the Registrars not less than 48 hours before the time of the holding of the relevant meeting. The completion and return of a form of proxy will not preclude a shareholder of HSBC Holdings from attending and voting in person at the meetings.

The Final Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in, or by use of the mails of, or by any means or instrumentality (including, but not limited to, facsimile transmission, telex and telephone) of interstate or foreign commerce of, or any facilities of a national securities exchange of, the US (which term means the United States of America, its territories and possessions, any State of the United States and the District of Columbia and all other areas subject to its jurisdiction), and the Final Offer cannot be accepted by any such use, means or instrumentality, or from within the US. Copies of this advertisement or any related offering documents are not being, and must not be, mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the US, and persons receiving such documents (including custodians, nominees and trustees) must not distribute or send them in, into or from the US.

The new HSBC Holdings shares and the new HSBC Holdings bonds have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 (as amended). In addition, the new HSBC Holdings bonds are subject to US tax law requirements. Accordingly, such securities may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in the US.

This advertisement is published on behalf of HSBC Holdings and has been approved by Schroders, a member of the Securities and Futures Authority Limited, solely for the purposes of section 37 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

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3 June 1992



Defence firms find cause for optimism in German nervousness over European Fighter Aircraft

# Bonn pull-out may boost British jobs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION by Germany to withdraw from the E21 billion European Fighter Aircraft programme would improve job prospects in Britain's aerospace industry, according to sources involved in the programme.

Although the loss of one of four partners would have a serious effect on the collaborative programme, British officials are adamant that the European fighter would survive Germany's withdrawal.

Britain, Italy and Spain, which remain committed to building and buying EFA, would share out the work now done by German companies.

Germany which is paying for 33 per cent of the development costs, has been working on the aircraft's fin and central fuselage. One industry source said yesterday: "It would be up to the other three countries to divide up the work. With fewer production lines and reduced labour costs, the plane could end up cheaper and more jobs would be created in Britain."

In spite of the positive approach adopted by industry, the government and the principal British companies involved in the programme are still hopeful that Germany will remain a partner. Transferring work and facilities out of Germany would inevitably be costly.

The Ministry of Defence has said that the minimum cost effective production order would be 400-450 aircraft, which includes export sales. On that basis, even if Germany cancels its requirement for 250 of the aircraft, the production lines could still roll without seriously affecting the overall cost.

Britain also has a requirement for 250 aircraft, but this is likely to be reduced. Italy's declared production option for 165 and Spain's for 100 are also likely to be cut back.

Dozens of British companies are involved in the programme, with about 20,000 jobs directly and another 20,000 indirectly dependent on its successful completion. British Aerospace employs about 2,000 at its factory in Warton, near Preston, the main centre for the aircraft development. Another 2,000-3,000 will be involved when production starts. GEC, whose various subsidiaries are developing the aircraft's radar, electronic counter-measure systems and head-up display for the cockpit, has about 1,000 people working on EFA.

Germany also has about 20,000 defence workers involved in the EFA development programme and Volker Rühle, the German defence minister, has been severely criticised for putting their jobs at risk.

The final cost of EFA will remain a controversial issue. Britain and Germany have each shared 33 per cent of the development costs, which is based on the number of aircraft they wanted to buy. The production cost will also be based on how many aircraft each country buys. This will mean that Britain will have to bear the largest share if Germany withdraws.

At present, British industry expects EFA to cost about 80 per cent of the cost of Tornados, also a European collaborative project. This would mean a unit cost of less than £20 million. The German quoted figure of £45 million per aircraft takes into account the life-long cost of each aircraft.

He paid tribute to Germany's position, over the years, as "an extremely reliable partner". Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said that a decision by Germany to withdraw from the project "would have very considerable implications for European security".

Martin O'Neill, the shadow defence secretary, said that the project could continue without German involvement and welcomed Mr Rifkind's commitment. The need for replacements for Phantom and Jaguar aircraft would continue to produce orders which could be met by working in partnership with Italy and Spain.

He said that there might be a need for a review of the estimate, made in 1986, of the number of fighter aircraft required. Mr Rifkind replied that the government had been working on the basis of 250 aircraft.

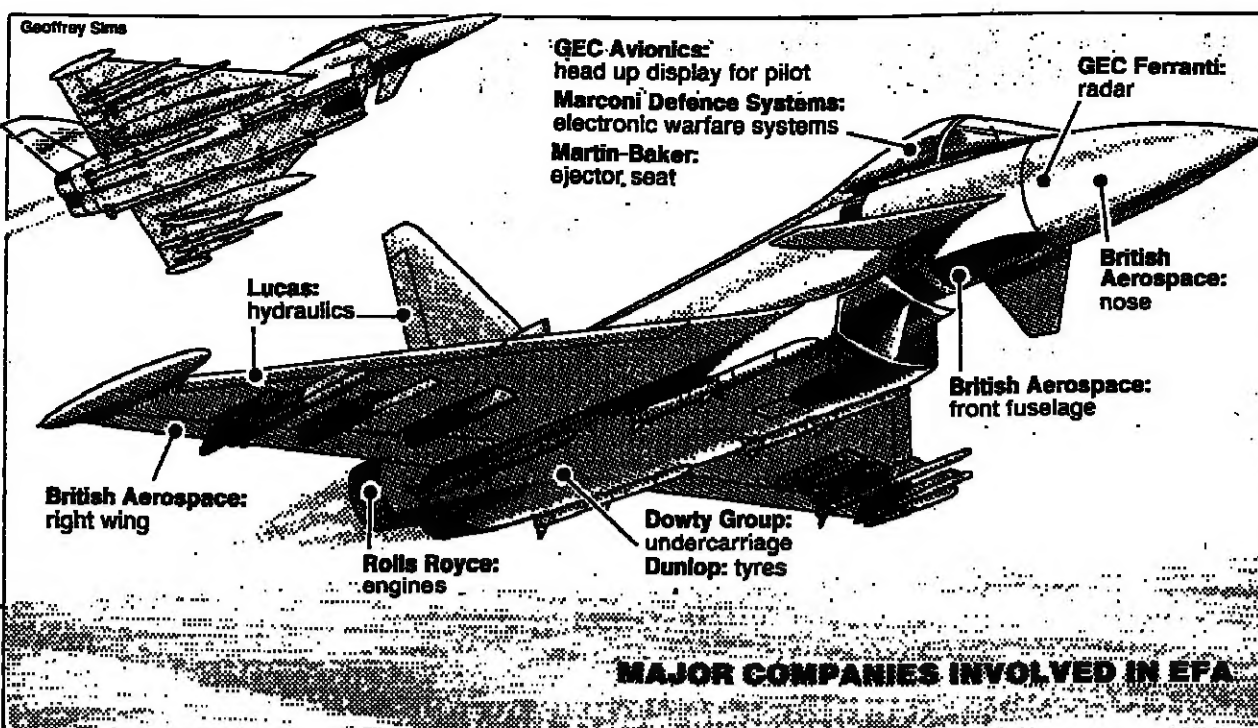
## Rifkind seeks to save partnership

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government reaffirmed its commitment to the European Fighter Aircraft programme yesterday and pressed Germany to involve itself fully in the project. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said that Germany's commitment was important if European co-operation and collaboration were to be taken seriously.

He said the project was perhaps the most important example of European collaboration and that Britain, Italy and Spain were firmly committed to it.

Mr Rifkind said during Commons questions: "We very much hope that the German government, which has not yet reached a decision, will confirm its willingness to be associated with the project because otherwise it will be very difficult to take seriously the need for European co-operation and collaboration."



MAJOR COMPANIES INVOLVED IN EFA

## Kohl tries to put off decision on jet

THE German chancellor is attempting to keep his options open in the face of hostility to the European Fighter Aircraft project from his defence minister, Volker Rühle, right, who says he wants to put men before machines, Ian Murray reports



on its own decision. There is a growing awareness that, if Germany pulls out now, thousands of jobs in aviation will be lost in Bavaria, while the industry in other countries will benefit because a necessary new generation of fighter aircraft will have to be imported.

More worrying is the warning issued by Edzard Reuter, the head of Daimler Benz, that if Germany drops out it will lose its technological edge. The future of the entire German economy was being put at stake because of "short-sightedness, aggravated by rose-coloured, populist speculations", he said.

Herr Kohl is also known to be concerned that, by pulling out, Germany will lose considerable credibility as a reliable partner in Europe at a time when he wants to lead the way towards further European integration.

Herr Kohl must also confront the difficulties of coalition politics. The German aerospace industry is based in Bavaria, ruled by the Christian Social Union (CSU), close partners of the chancellor's Christian Democrats.

The CSU leader, Theo Waigel, who is also the federal finance minister in charge of the budget, has said that at least 20,000 jobs are at stake in Bavaria and there would be dire electoral consequences if the project was dropped. He has put in a strong plea to defer a decision "for several years" until after the bulk of spending in the east is over.

The end of the Cold War and the high cost of unifica-

tion have made defence spending unpopular in Germany and Herr Rühle is already committed to pruning the defence budget by DM20 billion (£6.9 billion) by 2005. There will then be DM10.2 billion set aside for replacing the Phantom, but that will only be enough to buy about half the 140 aircraft the Luftwaffe says is the bare minimum needed to maintain a credible defence.

Only by slashing back the army to well below its 370,000 planned strength will there be enough money to buy the necessary number of aircraft. Herr Rühle, who wants to give soldiers a pay rise of two marks, that would cost the equivalent of five EFAs, says that he is determined to put men before machines.

The real cost of the EFA is hotly disputed in Germany. Its supporters say that, by the time the state takes back the taxation on salaries and materials paid for building it in Germany, the net cost of each machine will be about DM30 million, just over half the price of its cheapest rival. Its detractors say that the true cost will be closer to DM150 million and is rising all the time.

During the past six months Britain has sent about 52,000 tonnes of beef to Russia under the aid programmes. Mark Lennox-Boyd, Foreign Office under secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. European Communities (Amendment) bill, committee, first day. Lords (2.30): Debate on the committee work of the House.



## MPs call for army rethink

MPs pressed Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, to think again about the proposed amalgamations of army regiments that stem from Options for Change.

At Commons questions Mr Rifkind said: "I attach very considerable importance to ensuring that the force levels are appropriate to the demands expected of our armed forces. If the government ever came to the view that these force levels needed to be reviewed then of course that is what we would do."

## Act reviewed

The government is reviewing the Caravan Sites Act with the aim of reducing the nuisance caused by illegal encampments. Tony Baldry, environment under secretary, said in a written reply.

## Water works

In the next two months a consultation document will be issued on water conservation measures, including the potential role of meters for domestic supplies. David Maclean, the environment minister, said in a written reply.

## Russian aid

During the past six months Britain has sent about 52,000 tonnes of beef to Russia under the aid programmes. Mark Lennox-Boyd, Foreign Office under secretary, said in a written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. European Communities (Amendment) bill, committee, first day. Lords (2.30): Debate on the committee work of the House.

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Together we are encouraging farmers to minimise spray applications to the field margins of certain grain crops. The drop in crop yield is not great - but the reservoir of wildflower seeds in the soil is encouraged to flourish, sometimes dramatically.

As well as the ubiquitous poppy, rare and perhaps forgotten plants are being seen again. The "Pheasant's Eye," which symbolises the project is just one example.

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## DPP defends refusal of Taylor's offer

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday defended her decision to reject an offer by the Lord Chief Justice to give evidence at the appeal of Judith Ward.

Barbara Mills, QC, said that Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the country's most senior judge, had been treated like any other potential witness. "He offered to give evidence but, as it was clear from his letter that he would not have been able to give any additional material to help the Court of Appeal, he was not called," Mrs Mills said.

Counsel for the defence had also been informed of Lord Taylor's decision, she said. Gareth Williams, QC, the chairman of the Bar, criticised the failure of the DPP's office to act on the unprecedented offer by Lord Taylor to go into the witness box. He said: "It's very heinous that we have Lord Taylor taking the initiative and not just talking about opening doors but doing it. But if you have got the Lord Chief Justice saying that he will assist, it seems very strange indeed that the offer was not taken

up. It is not a judgment I would have made."

Mr Williams said that it might help if the DPP's office could be more open. "Public officials would do themselves and the public a service if they behaved more openly and explained themselves. People are now wondering what is going on."

Lord Taylor has said that he wrote to the DPP making it clear that he was willing and able to go into the witness box at the appeal, but his offer was not taken up. As Peter Taylor, QC, he was a junior prosecuting counsel at the trial 18 years ago when Miss Ward was jailed for life for the M62 coach bombing, in which 12 people died. There have been criticisms that nobody from the original prosecuting team gave evidence at the appeal hearing, particularly to answer questions of non-disclosure of evidence.

Although the Court of Appeal judges — Lords Justices Giddens and Nolan with Mr Justice Sweeney — had said that they would have liked a witness statement to be taken

from Brian Walsh, QC, now a crown court recorder, prosecution lawyers did not take a statement.

Lord Taylor, in an interview with *The Times*, said: "I got in touch with the DPP and said I was perfectly willing and able to give evidence if required and I asked that to be conveyed to the Crown and the defence."

Yesterday it was unclear why the Court of Appeal judges had not invited the Crown to call the Lord Chief Justice, nor why the defence team did not query the fact that he was not called. Defence lawyers are refusing to comment while the Court of Appeal has yet to give its judgment. The court is tomorrow expected to quash the convictions as unsafe and unsatisfactory.

Lord Taylor said in the interview that Miss Ward's case was a classic example of a miscarriage of justice — "one in which one feels very great regret". However, he said that as far as his personal role was concerned: "I can only say I have no feeling of guilt over what I did."



Garden in the air: the roof garden on the Cannon Bridge development in the City of London nearing completion yesterday. The garden covers just over an acre and has a computer-controlled irrigation system (David Young writes). The planning of the garden and the

choice of plants was dictated by the weight of soil that could be supported and by the winds which will blow from the river. The greatest depth of soil possible was about 18in, too shallow for trees. The roof was finished with layers of asphalt tanking, then insulating board with

a concrete screed on top to stop gardeners' forks from penetrating the asphalt. There is a layer of expanded clay granules to provide insulation and drainage. The project took six months. A mobile crane was used to hoist about 1,000 tons of soil, slabs, sand, chip-

pings and plants to the rooftop. Simon Blackley, of Waters Landscapes, Ascot, said: "It has been one of the most interesting projects we have had to work on. Because of City parking restrictions, we had to lift all the soil and plants on to the roof at weekend."

# The Law. Has the Queen been granted a Royal Pardon?



DISPATCHES: 9 PM WEDNESDAYS.

Each week Dispatches uncovers an important news story before it hits the headlines.

Tonight we ask if royal privilege has helped the Queen to become the richest, most powerful monarch for 300 years.

We reveal that amendments made to bills before they are passed by Parliament, have enabled the Queen and her Household to be granted immunity from many of the laws that bind ordinary citizens.

Most disturbing of all, is that these same privileges mean that no-one, not even Parliament, can question her power.

KEEP AN EYE ON



## Village 'cathedral' needs £250,000

BY JOHN YOUNG

A £250,000 APPEAL has been launched to save an ancient church in danger of collapsing. If work does not start by September, St Peter and St Paul, Kedington, described by the late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as the Westminster Abbey of Suffolk, is expected to close within a year.

The church stands on a steep bank of the Stour and is of cathedral proportions, with a tower, chancel, nave and two aisles. Part of the site is thought to have been occupied by a Roman villa and traces of Roman bricks and mosaics can still be seen in the nave.

The building contains a rare Saxon cross, dating from around 900 AD, which was discovered under the floor in the last century. The original Norman tower was erected by John of Newmarket but was replaced by the present struc-

ture in the fourteenth century. The perpendicular nave and chancel were built by the Barnardiston family, who were the main benefactors for generations and whose monuments adorn the church.

Because of its remoteness, the church never attracted the attention of Victorian "improvers", and is noted for its wealth of old furnishings. They include fifteenth century pews, a font from about the same period, and a long chest and almsbox of earlier date. The altar and pulpit are Jacobean and the oak chancel screen is said to be the earliest post-Reformation screen in England.

The Rev Peter Edwards, the rector, said yesterday that at least £50,000 was needed for urgent structural repairs and villagers had recently launched a fund-raising campaign.

JOHN MANNING



The Rev Peter Edwards at the church yesterday

## Big Ben rings out in Durham

BY PAUL WILKINSON

DURHAM'S turbulent bishop and conscience on the shoulder of government, Dr David Jenkins, will find Westminster has unexpectedly moved onto his doorstep next Sunday.

Five miles down the road from his cathedral, at the old mining village of West Rainton, the chimes of Big Ben will begin marking every quarter-hour and deliver the hourly bong just as they do over the Houses of Parliament 300 miles to the south.

A computer-controlled set of Westminster chimes has been installed in the clock tower of St Mary's parish church to replace an aging bell which stopped striking four years ago. The poor state of the tower meant that it could not take the weight of a new mechanism without expensive repairs, so the parish council has bought a £4,000 microchip digital alternative.

The tower might be crumbling, but at the touch of a button the rector, the Rev David Guest, can create computer campanology on a par with some of the best bellies in the land. The sounds of six bells can be simulated, so besides the chimes of Westminster he can ring the changes with three different wedding peals and a carol for Christmas.

Thea Dawson, chairman of the parish council, said: "I think people will be impressed by the sound of Big Ben in little West Rainton."

## Bailiffs go into police HQ

Bailiffs went into the Sheffield headquarters of South Yorkshire Police yesterday over a £63,000 bill for legal fees. They were instructed to recover police cars and computer equipment.

The money was owed to Sheffield solicitors who had acted for a man beaten up at Coronwood, near Barnsley, during the 1985 miners' strike.

The force said yesterday that it had recently paid the bill and that the bailiffs did not remove any property.

## Don's suicide

Professor John Hall, 64, senior lecturer at St John's College, Cambridge, stabbed himself to death because he was depressed about his forthcoming retirement, an inquest at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, was told. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

## Boy charged

A boy aged 11 was charged with the manslaughter of his brother, 13, at their home in Oldham, Greater Manchester. Magistrates in the town remanded him on £4,000 bail.

## Job claim fails

Margaret Slade, 50, a 17-stone kitchen assistant who left her job at a hotel in Barry, South Glamorgan, after her boss suggested she go on a diet, lost her claim for constructive dismissal at a tribunal hearing in Cardiff.



TABLE 11. *Summary of the results of the analysis of variance for the effect of the treatment on the mean values of the dependent variables.*



## Primaries end with a whimper

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States presidential primary season finally ended with contests in California and five other states yesterday, but neither President Bush nor Bill Clinton, the Republican and Democratic victors, had any cause for celebration.

Despite their huge investment of time and money since the primaries began in New Hampshire in February, the season will be remembered chiefly for record low turnouts of turned-off voters, brief surges of enthusiasm for the

"angry outsider" candidacies of Paul Tsongas, Jerry Brown and Patrick Buchanan, plus the phenomenal rise of the ultimate political neophyte, Ross Perot.

As voters went to the polls yesterday in California, New Jersey, Ohio, New Mexico, Montana and Alabama a new Washington Post poll showed Mr Perot leading nationally by 34 per cent, with 31 per cent for Mr Bush and 29 per cent for Mr Clinton. For an independent, let alone one who has not yet declared, actually to lead in the polls is unprecedented, while Mr Bush's showing is one of the worst ever for an incumbent president.

However a separate poll for CBS television, underscoring the extreme volatility of this year's election, showed Mr Bush ahead on 35 per cent, with Mr Clinton and Mr Perot virtually tied for second place with 27 and 26 per cent respectively. The Post's poll demonstrated how Mr Perot's presence has wrecked the tried-and-tested campaign strategies of the two parties. It showed Mr Bush well ahead of Mr Clinton in the north and north-east, traditional Democratic strongholds, but trailing in the Republican bastions of the south and west.

## Assad says Israelis want war

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Assad of Syria yesterday raised tension in the Middle East by accusing the Israeli government of trying to push the region into a new war to sabotage the Madrid peace process and to win votes in this month's election.

In an interview with BBC World Service Television, he declared that if Syria were attacked it would defend itself. His remarks followed references by Syrian officials to the possibility of a war arising from the escalation over the past two weeks of violence in southern Lebanon which has left 23 people dead and 63 wounded.

Western observers fear that there is a possibility of war if Syrian gunners were to destroy an Israeli jet or if Israel pushed more ground troops further north from its security zone in southern Lebanon. "Israel is the country that threatens to launch war," said the Syrian leader in his first televised interview since the Gulf war last year.

Diary, page 14



Might of the state: China, having crushed the Tiananmen Square demonstrators in 1989, is now promising free enterprise without democracy

## Chinese turn from conflict to capitalism

AS THE anniversary of the crushing of the democracy movement in Peking approaches, the people who in 1989 had their hearts set on revolution have turned to making money.

Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, who in 1989 ordered the army to fire on unarmed demonstrators, leaving thousands injured, encouraged the capitalist movement in remarks earlier this year. Abandoning communist phraseology, and with no passing reference to Marx, Mr Deng said that China should emulate the "four little dragons" of Asia: Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong. He picked out Singapore as a model not only of an economic miracle, but also of strict social control.

Mr Deng still speaks of "socialism with Chinese characteristics". It appears,

On the anniversary of the Tiananmen killings, those once bent on revolution are now bent on making money, writes Catherine Sampson from Peking

however, that, after the collapse of communism elsewhere, he accepts a future in which there is still a dictatorship, but where free enterprise leads the economy and communism is irrelevant. That is Mr Deng's quiet revolution. It will not bring about democracy if he has anything to do with it, but he is hoping that prosperity will satisfy most of the frustrations that brought millions on to the streets in 1989.

Those who condemned Mr Deng for his role in 1989 in general support his latest policy. Cowed by the army action on June 4,

1989, they see a gradual evolution into capitalism as the only way for China to change without mass bloodshed or food queues. Unlike eastern Europe before the collapse of communism, political opposition has all but been eliminated in China. It is possible to count on the fingers of one hand the people who still call for political reform on the record. Occasional acts of defiance amount to little more than an unsigned poster on a campus or a wreath in remembrance of those killed in 1989.

While using economic

liberalisation to satisfy people, Peking has suppressed those they think cannot be bought off. International pressure has led to the well publicised releases of some prominent dissidents, but three years after Tiananmen, thousands are believed to be detained. Zhao Ziyang, the former party leader, remains under virtual house arrest, and three of his top aides are still awaiting trial. Others, such as Dai Qing, the journalist who was refused re-entry to China this week despite her Chinese passport, have been sent abroad to study.

People in Peking speak openly and unabashedly about how their priorities have changed from political change to foreign exchange. A stroll down the street provides evidence of the changes in the past three years. Thousands of cars

bear the P or F on their number plate that denotes a private car. One in every six men has a bleeper fixed to his belt that will alert him to a business phone call. In one of the best French restaurants in town, men negotiate deals over fresh lobster, one shouting above the fashionable hush into a portable telephone.

Mr Deng has spoken recently of revitalising the state-run sector. The People's Daily has been blunt about what that entails. "Some people's wages will increase as a result," it said in an editorial last week. "but others will have to take a cut in pay, or may even be made redundant." Conservatives may argue about whether such moves are socialist in nature, but they are faced by the fact that loss-making enterprises are bleeding the state dry.

### PEOPLE

## Police name new leader of Eta

The Spanish police yesterday named Faustino Estanislao Villanueva, nicknamed "Txapu", as the possible new leader of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation. He escaped to France nine years ago and is assumed to be still there.

Three months ago French police detained Francisco Mugica, Eta's top leader, in France and last Sunday in the same area they detained his successor, Iñaki Bilbao, 32, together with Eta's explosives expert, Rosario Pilabea, 30, and Bernardo Mella, 37, Bilbao's bodyguard, a former member of the Chilean MIR terrorist group.

Doctors in Amman, Jordan, said that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader, Yasser Arafat, 62, was doing "remarkably well" one day after they removed a cerebral blood clot.

The model Rachel Hunter, wife of rock star Rod Stewart, has given birth to a daughter.

President de Klerk of South Africa left Moscow for St Petersburg to meet local officials.

The Pakistan prime minister, Miran Nawaz Sharif, is to pay an official visit to Britain later this month at the invitation of John Major, officials in Islamabad said.

Prince Pedro Thiago de Orleans y Braganza, 13, the great-great grandson of Brazil's last monarch, was rescued by police after being kidnapped for a week, authorities in Rio de Janeiro reported.

President Mitterrand welcomed Margaret Thatcher to lunch at the Elysée Palace. What they discussed remained strictly private.

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# Nato general lists perils and prerogatives for peace force



General Galvin: Nato is fit for action

GENERAL John Galvin, Europe's most senior military commander, gave a warning yesterday of the dangers for peacekeepers in the unstable post-Cold war world. He was speaking on the eve of a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Oslo set to approve a new peacekeeping role for the alliance.

General Galvin outlined his views in an interview with *The Times* before retiring as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, on June 24 after five years in the post. He said the conflict in the former Yugoslavia was too volatile to expect UN peacekeeping troops to act in "a simple constabulary" role, just walking around with blue helmets and pistols. Peacekeeping troops might need reinforcing or evacuating, he said.

The mission, he went on, could then turn from peacekeeping to peacemaking.

As Nato adapts to the realities of an unstable, post-Cold war world, its retiring commander sees vital new roles for the group, Michael Evans writes

Britain is contributing 300 military personnel, mostly from 24 Field Ambulance, to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Croatia. They will all be deployed by the end of this month.

Nato governments are currently considering a Dutch initiative to give the alliance a peacekeeping role outside its traditional borders. Defence ministers supported the proposal in Brussels last week and foreign ministers will discuss it at a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Oslo tomorrow.

The Dutch defence minister claimed last week that Nato peacekeeping forces

could be in Yugoslavia by Christmas. But French objections to plans to use Nato soldiers for peacekeeping operations are threatening to derail the alliance's attempt to launch itself into a new post-Cold war role. Manfred Wörner, Nato's secretary-general, predicted last week that the Oslo meeting would endorse a statement that Europe's 52-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the CSCE, could call on Nato peacekeepers if the need arises. But France, which campaigns discreetly to reduce Nato's prominence and influence, is refusing to agree that any CSCE requests for

help should be made to the alliance. This is a setback to Nato's hopes of placing itself at the centre of future confrontations.

French diplomats working on the text of the statement to be discussed by ministers in Oslo tomorrow suggest that peacekeeping invitations should be made to individual governments which could decide their response separately. They have argued that Nato's name should not even be mentioned in connection with peacekeeping. French reservations are shared by Spain and Belgium.

The most likely outcome of the dispute is a verbal fudge which leaves all options open. The dispute is over semantics on the surface but is central to Nato's ability to adapt to the new realities. If the alliance's integrated command machinery does not find a new role, the

entire institution is liable to find itself sidelined by other competing groupings.

General Galvin, who is also commander of United States forces in Europe, said Nato would be a good peacekeeper. He said: "Nato has the training, the infrastructure and the overall readiness [to operate] in a situation where the roles are shifting. Nato is the one coalition in the world capable of taking on such a mission."

While declining to speculate on what an outside force would need to do if there were a move to use military action to enforce the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, General Galvin said intervention would not be "free of sacrifice". "If you're going to do it, you better do it with a well trained and well organised force," he said. Any operation would have to be carefully thought out, with "a lot

of capability for reinforcement".

The general has supervised Nato's force restructuring in Europe after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the break-up of the Soviet Union. He admitted that with political events changing so rapidly, he and his staff had to make constant adjustments to the restructuring plans.

With questions posed about Nato's role now that the threat of a massive surprise attack in Europe has vanished, General Galvin insisted that he did not need to "drum up" new business for the alliance. "That's not necessary to ensure the survival of Nato," he said. The alliance's future lay in a combination of roles: peacekeeping, peacemaking, defence, deterrence and humanitarian missions.

"Nato will have no trouble existing for a long time in the

future," he said. He did not rule out Nato peacekeepers acting east of Nato's boundaries but said any such operation would require a coalition of forces including units from the countries concerned. "You couldn't have Nato acting without the eastern countries' involvement."

He added that Nato had proved its peacekeeping expertise in northern Iraq when troops intervened in Operation Provide Comfort to help the Kurds who had taken refuge in the mountains on the border with Turkey. General Galvin emphasised the importance of calculating the risks of becoming involved in any peacekeeping operation. "In the past, peacekeeping has been swept aside by conflict, for example in Beirut."

He is being succeeded by General John Shalikashvili.

Additional reporting by George Brock

## Hurd warning on intervention

# Britain reluctant to use troops in Bosnia

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND JILL SHERMAN

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday made it clear that the government would be "very reluctant" to consider sending British troops to impose peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, if sanctions failed to stop the bloodshed.

He said: "We should not pretend more than we can achieve. Neither marines nor parachutists nor new-fangled blue helmets can fight their way to peace among peoples mingled together village by village."

Speaking at a Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers' Association lunch in London, he said: "It is easier to sketch such a military operation in theory than to launch it in practice — and easier to

launch it than to see how it can be successfully completed."

Mr Hurd said he did not exclude military action, but later he repeated his doubts about the use of force in the Commons. He told MPs: "While people see destruction and massacre night after night, they do not expect us to send in troops but to take some sensible action to bring the suffering to an end."

In contrast to Mr Hurd's remarks, Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, said military intervention might be necessary if sanctions failed. Portugal holds the EC presidency until July 1 when Britain takes over. Speaking in Berlin, he said: "If the genocide continues,

then we cannot exclude that solution."

Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, also said military intervention to halt fighting in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina should not be ruled out. However, "military measures" should only be a last resort and sanctions should be given time to work.

Yesterday Serb paramilitary forces continued to break the UN-brokered ceasefire by shelling the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, apparently indifferent to the UN trade embargo.

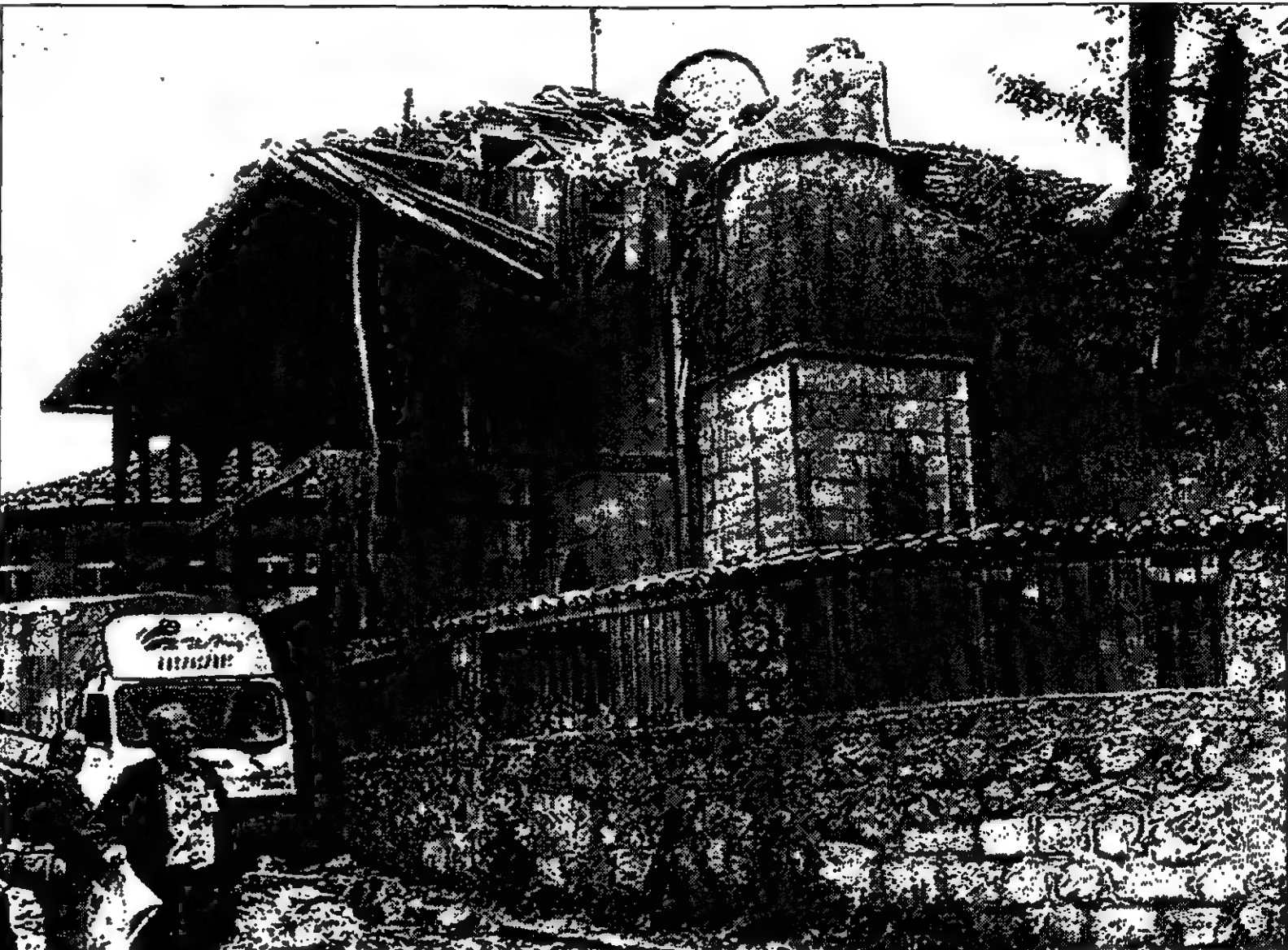
Mr Hurd said the power of outsiders to stop the new conflicts that were springing up should not be exaggerated. Apart from Bosnia, there was fighting along the southern fringe of the former Soviet Union. "Neither the UN, nor the EC, nor the WEU [Western European Union], nor the CSCE [Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe], nor Nato, nor any combination of initials can by themselves impose a peace by force or exorcise fears and hatreds," he said.

He said other dangers were in the making which potentially were "more explosive than anything we have seen so far". He cited the failure of the Russians to give a date for the withdrawal of their forces from the Baltic republics.

Detailing the sanctions directed at Serbia and Montenegro, Mr Hurd told the Commons they were among the most comprehensive ever adopted by the UN. He said: "We do not wish to penalise the Serbian people or to destroy the Serbian economy. But we must bring home to Mr Milosevic [the Serbian leader] and his supporters that the international community cannot tolerate his present policy."

Cedric Thornberry, the United Nations troubleshooter, was trapped yesterday in an army base on the outskirts of Sarajevo after a UN-escorted food convoy was ambushed in one of the city's frontline suburbs. Confused reports spoke of two injured and one dead. A UN spokeswoman said that attempts to reach the wounded had been prevented because rescuers had been threatened with anti-tank weapons.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN secretary-general, yesterday accused Croatia of continuing to intervene directly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but stopped short of calling for sanctions against Croatia.



Shattered faith: two residents walking past the ruins of the Magribia, the oldest mosque in Sarajevo, yesterday. Built in 1462, the mosque is just one of 300 buildings of cultural and historical value which have been destroyed by the Serbian bombardment of the city

## Britain will ask Kabul to trace Russians

By NICHOLAS BETHELL

A BRITISH diplomatic mission, which arrived in Kabul yesterday, is to raise with the new Afghan leaders, mostly Mujahidin commanders, the problem of prisoners from the former Soviet army still being held by various groups, in some cases more than seven years after being captured and three years after Moscow withdrew its forces.

Up to 60,000 men, half of them Europeans from Russia and Ukraine and the other half from a Central Asian or Islamic background, are still in Afghan hands. Martin Williams, head of the foreign office's South Asia department and leader of the mission, has a list of 15 men known by the Russian foreign ministry to be alive. Most want to go home to their families, although a few have been integrated into Afghan life after embracing Islam and marrying Afghan women.

A spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry said: "We do not insist that all or any of these men must return home. But we want to meet them and ascertain their wishes."

The problem facing the Red Cross and other bodies anxious to tackle this outstanding humanitarian issue from a past war is that the Russians are all given Islamic names by their captors and have been invited to change their dress and appearance to fit in with local custom, and so they are harder to trace and identify.

Russian public opinion is urging the government to do more to save these last victims of the Soviet system. Mr Williams's mission will also discuss the reopening of the British embassy in Kabul, which was closed when the Soviet army withdrew.

● Kabul: Gunmen opened fire on Jalaluddin Haqqani, a senior Afghan Mujahidin leader, wounding three of his guards, and clashes between rival guerrilla groups claimed several lives as new violence broke out in Kabul yesterday. The violence was the worst since a ceasefire ended open warfare among guerrilla factions early last month, following the downfall of the former communist government in April. (Reuters)

## Yeltsin in libel suit warning to Gorbachev

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has given former President Gorbachev a warning that he will be taken to court if he continues his criticism of the Russian government's economic reforms.

Mr Yeltsin's spokesman said that recent declarations and predictions by the former Soviet leader went far beyond the bounds of what was appropriate for a former president of the country. His remarks had taken on an ever more prescriptive tone and his latest criticisms "could only be described as a deliberate attempt to increase political tension and destabilise the social and political balance in the country."

The spokesman said that Mr Yeltsin wanted to make clear to Mr Gorbachev the danger and unacceptability of his remarks. He said that Mr Yeltsin would be forced to take the necessary legal steps to ensure that the course of national reform was not harmed.

He did not specify those steps but appeared to be warning Mr Gorbachev that he would be sued for libel if he continued to write and speak out as he has in the past few days. Last Friday, in a withering interview with *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Mr Gorbachev said that he could no longer keep silent in his criticism of privatisation, agricultural policy and the legalisation of organised crime and its bosses. The government had to correct its course. "It should do what it ought to do. If it cannot, just say so and resign." So far he had not seen any changes.

Mr Gorbachev, who has often insisted that he is not using his foundation as a basis for setting up an opposition party, said that he was not going to withdraw into the political wilderness. But he denied suggestions that he was breaking an agreement with Mr Yeltsin to keep outside active politics. "Yeltsin is not Jesus Christ. I do not have to report to him," the former president told the paper.

Philip Howard, page 14

## Ukraine vows to retain Crimea

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

UKRAINE'S parliament yesterday issued a "hands off" warning to Russia's Supreme Soviet over the future of the strategically important Crimean peninsula.

Russia's parliament last month declared the Crimea's transfer to Ukraine in the 1950's to be invalid, a move which gave a boost to the peninsula's pro-Russian separatist movement. In a tit-for-tat parliamentary declaration, Ukraine pronounced the Russian parliament's motion to have no legal basis in the republic. Crimea was and would continue to be, an integral part of Ukraine and its status was not a matter for inter-state negotiations.

Although Ukrainian politicians have trodden a careful line between rejecting Russian advances to the Crimea and alienating its Russian speaking inhabitants, yesterday's decision is likely to exacerbate the growing ethnic problems in the peninsula between Russian political activists, their Ukrainian oppo-

nents and returning Crimean Tatars. Russia had, claimed Anatoli Zlenko, Ukraine's foreign minister, ignored every point of international law in its dealings on the Crimea. "None of the decisions by the Russian parliament has any logical link to the United Nations charter, the Helsinki process or bilateral treaties between Russia and the Ukraine," Mr Zlenko said.

The Crimea, a highly militarised area which is the headquarters of the Black Sea fleet, and dominated by its conservative ethnic Russian population, was presented by President Khrushchev to Ukraine in 1954 as a propaganda symbol representing the friendship between the two republics.

Since Ukraine's independence from the former Soviet Union, its separatist movement has in turn demanded independence from Ukraine and reunification with Russia under the guise of separate membership of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

## Black Sea warship raises nuclear fears

BY ROBERT SEELY

UKRAINIAN fears of a nuclear accident were raised this week after the publication of claims that radiation was leaking into the Black Sea from a sunken Soviet warship containing nuclear warheads.

The newspaper *Pravda Ukraine* (The Truth of Ukraine), showing three pictures of the anti-submarine warship *Fearless* capsizing, claimed that the vessel had sunk with a complement of nuclear depth charges.

Almost all the crew were lost in the accident, which took place in 1974. Details were only released with the article. Those sailors who managed to jump into the water before the ship sank, the newspaper reported, were drowned by the faulty design of military lifelines.

Although the ship had almost certainly been carrying nuclear warheads, no attempt had been made to recover them from their resting place near the Crimean coastline. Under the headline

"Atomic Genie in Sebastopol Bay", the paper demanded answers from Ukraine's ministry of defence.

The incident highlights both the secrecy of the former Soviet military in dealing with environmental pollution and the lack of information available to the public. For Ukrainians, whose republic is the site of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, stories concerning civil or military nuclear accidents are particularly sensitive.

Many incidents of environmental pollution have been unaccounted for and both Ukraine's defence and environmental ministries, which have the responsibility of accounting for accidents, have few details of them. Moscow: The foreign ministers of Russia and Moldova agreed yesterday on the need for a peaceful resolution of Moldova's armed standoff between Slavs and ethnic Romanians. However, it was unclear whether this would be respected by the military.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Peru plans autumn election

**Lima:** President Fujimori of Peru announced last night that elections for a constituent assembly will be held on October 18, marking a return to democracy after he dissolved Congress and the judiciary on April 5 (Corinne Schmidt writes).

**Máximo San Román,** whom the Congress named as "constitutional president", said that political dialogue to set electoral ground rules had to come before the elections.

### Power surge

**Moscow:** Russia has confirmed a *Komsomolskaya Pravda* report that, for the first time since Chernobyl in 1986, it is to build more nuclear energy plants and increase the capacity of existing plants to compensate for a fall in oil production.

### Hostages saved

**Karachi:** Paramilitary forces stormed bandit hideouts in southern Pakistan and rescued 32 bus passengers kidnapped from Dadu, in Sind, on Saturday. The passengers were found chained to trees in Adhari forest, a few miles from the town. (Reuters)

### Ramos leads

**Manila:** Fidel Ramos, the former Philippines defence chief, claimed a narrow victory in the presidential election with 23.5 per cent of the vote, according to nearly complete returns. His opponents said there was evidence of ballot-rigging. (Reuters)

### Gold repaid

**Stockholm:** The Swedish parliament voted to pay Estonia and Lithuania 275 million kronor (£26 million) in compensation for gold deposits handed over to the Soviet Union in 1940. The money will come from an Eastern Europe aid budget. (Reuters)

## Italy mulls island banishment for mafiosi

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian authorities, despairing of conventional law enforcement after the assassination of Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge, are discussing reverting to Mussolini-era tactics to combat organised crime. Il Duce's government banished many gang bosses to inaccessible islands and Rome is thinking of following suit.

Claudio Martelli, the justice minister, and Enzo Scotti, the interior minister, discussed details of the proposal on Monday. They hope that it would help to prevent crimes such as Signor Falcone's assassination last month, which was believed to have been masterminded inside Italy's overcrowded prisons, specifically the notorious

Ucciardone "high security" jail in Palermo.

"This is a project being studied," *La Repubblica* quoted Luigi Rossi, commander of the "Criminalpol" national police department, as saying.

The practice of "confino" (confinement) of criminals on desert islands was initiated by the Bourbon kings of Naples and used extensively by Cesare Mori, the "Iron Prefect" appointed by Mussolini with extraordinary powers to fight the Mafia in the 1920s.

Since the war Italian governments have been loath to revive the practice. Banishment was feared, would bring back memories of its use by the Fascist regime against political dissidents,

some of whom also were exiled to remote mainland areas as described by Carlo Levi in *Christ Stopped at Eboli*.

About 1,000 people considered dangerous because of links to Mafia clans are restricted at present to "obligatory sojourn" in Northern Italy while awaiting trial. But with modern communications that has served only to arouse the opposition of many northerners led by the Lombardy League party.

Opposition to sending mafiosi to inhabited islands also proved insuperable after the war. In 1971, for example, islanders at Filicudi off Sicily blocked their picturesque port in protest and forced the police to take away a group of Mafia kingpins that they had

tried to settle there. Red Brigades activists were incarcerated in Asinara off Sardinia in the 1970s. But last year, Signor Scotti reassured the mayor of the island of Lipari, near Sicily, that "tourist areas will not be obliged to play host to mafiosi."

Justice ministry officials apparently have drawn up a list of virtually uninhabited islands where underworld godfathers would be deprived of the cellular telephones and fax facilities they enjoy in some mainland jails because of complicity from sympathetic wardens. Sites under study include Dino, off the scorching Calabrian coast; Capraia, 15 miles from Corsica; and Gorgona, 20 miles from Leghorn.



Mussolini: used exile for political dissidents



# Britain and America attack Third World patents deal

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
AND DAVID WATTS

BRITAIN and the United States yesterday began to detail their objections to the South's demands for increased cash and access to Western patents in return for access to their natural resources.

Whitehall's objections are centred on the loose wording of Article 21 of the draft treaty agreed in Nairobi.

"We're worried about its open-endedness. We could go on pouring money into a bottomless pit," said a spokeswoman for the environment department. As agreed in the preliminary negotiations, compensation for the degradation of the poorer countries' natural resources was to be on the basis of individual negotiations.

The American authorities are more concerned about the use by Southern countries of American trade marks without authorisation when marketing products such as drugs



The controversial first paragraph of Article 21 of the biodiversity treaty that has alarmed America, Britain and other industrial countries reads in part: There shall be a mechanism for the provision of financial resources to developing countries for purposes of this convention on a grant or concessional basis. For purposes of this convention, the conference of the parties shall determine the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria relating to the access and utilisation of such resources. The contributions shall be such as to take into account the need for predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds... in accordance with the amount of resources needed to be decided periodically by the conference of the parties and the importance of burden-sharing among the contributing parties.

and medicines. Third World countries, it is said, registers famous brand names under local law without compensation and use them to sell inferior products. The British firm Yardley has found they have little or no recourse in such cases.

John Major wants to sign the Earth summit treaty on biodiversity, aiming to protect the range of animal and plant life across the globe, not least for their potential as suppliers of food and medicines.

But he has to overcome reservations from the Treasury and the Overseas Development Administration about what is conceded in government circles to be an imperfect draft treaty.

Britain's objection to the treaty, as agreed by more than 90 nations last week in Nairobi, is that it accepts the principle of states being responsible to one another for biodiversity. Technically this could lead to endless international litigation.

The bigger problem for Mr Major and for Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is that British negotiators failed to get the financial mechanisms they would have liked to see in the treaty. It appears to suggest that the level of funding deemed necessary to protect plant and animal species could be decided by a body dominated by the poorer nations of the world, with the developed nations forced to sign a blank cheque.

The Treasury is demanding watertight assurances that such a situation will not be allowed to come about. But the treaty text is now closed and could only be altered by getting together the countries which made the original agreement.

The decisions on funding, according to a text which few people have yet seen, would be taken by a "conference of parties"; that is by representatives of the states which sign and ratify the agreement, likely to include a heavy majority of developing nations. But the environment department is now examining "get-out" stages including one which would the labyrinthine processes of United Nations negotiation. The "conference of parties" has to establish its rules of procedure, including the mechanism for spending money, by consensus, since they are not set out in the treaty text. In practice that will give Britain and the other richer nations with reservations an effective veto. If the conference of parties sets too small a majority for taking decisions, then Britain or another country could continue vetoing the rules of procedure until they were happy with the formula set.

A third possible line of defence is the production by an inter-governmental committee of a declaration on financial principles to be attached to the treaty, which could come to have legal force.

It is being emphasised in the environment department that Britain's spirit is one of "trying to remove obstacles rather than hiding behind them". But there is some sympathy in other quarters for wider-ranging American objections. Developing countries, whose rare indigenous species, plants or fungi may hold the secret of vital breakthroughs in medical and other fields, want to ensure their right to a share in the profits of developing them, perhaps even when the resultant drugs are later synthesised. The US is objecting also therefore on the grounds of intellectual property rights and industrial patents to other provisions in the treaty.

Major's role, page 1

## North and South bicker over value of wildlife

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN RIO DE JANEIRO

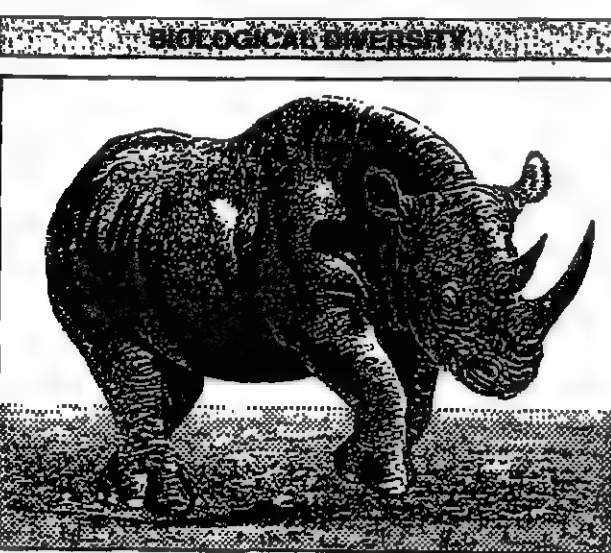
ANTAGONISM between the industrialised nations and the Third World is threatening to undo the convention on biological diversity, the Earth summit treaty on conserving the world's wildlife, on which Britain may agree with America in refusing to sign.

It is the North-South split many had feared. Running through the summit's preparatory process has been a vein of acrimony between the developed countries of the North, such as the United States and Britain, and the developing countries of the South, such as India and Malaysia, over responsibility for the future of the environment — and money. Put crudely, the North, the original polluter, wants the South to co-operate in saving the planet by growing economically in a cleaner way than it did itself.

The South sees this as a morally justified opportunity to demand large sums of aid, which, however, will not be forthcoming, not least because of the recession affecting the richer countries.

The North-South gap has been narrowed in one of the summit's two central agreements, the convention on climate change, which President Bush and John Major are prepared to sign, but has widened over the biodiversity convention, which is directed at avoiding the extinction of certain plant and animal species.

The Cambridge-based World Conservation Monitoring Centre estimates that between 2 per cent and 8 per cent of the world's species are becoming extinct every year, depending on the rate of deforestation. The convention also aims to prevent the extinction of species such as the black rhinoceros in Africa and Spix's macaw, a beautiful rainforest parrot. It would



Black rhino: the biodiversity treaty could save it

commit all signatories to establishing strategies for conserving all their wildlife, and to setting up global networks of protected areas.

Under both summit conventions the Northern countries accept that the Southern countries will need extra aid for specific projects that benefit the world. But the aid is to be tightly controlled by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) of the World Bank, which has just been created with a fund of \$1.4 billion (£770 million).

The poorer nations are suspicious of the World Bank, which they regard as a rich countries' institution, and have been demanding a new fund, which they would control and to which the richer countries would contribute. That has been refused, and when talks on the climate change convention were successfully concluded they accepted the GEF as the treaty's funding mechanism, at least on an interim basis.

The GEF was also accepted with regard to the biodiversity treaty. However, a compro-

mise text was put forward by the director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Mustafa Tolba, in which the wording was significantly different, with the poorer countries having a majority say on how much donors should contribute. America saw this as signing a legally binding blank cheque.

There is also a sharp difference of views over the world's wildlife and its value. Countries such as Britain see animals and plants as having an intrinsic value which should be preserved. Developing countries see them as valuable resources. The second view has prevailed in the treaty negotiations, producing an accord concerned mainly with genetic engineering and money.

The conservation commitments have been much watered down and there will no longer be lists of globally accepted threatened animals, plants and habitats.

Yet without such lists, many environmentalists and scientists believe, there is nothing to measure conservation progress against.



World on his shoulders: Maurice Strong, the millionaire mastermind of the summit

## Railwayman's son signals greener lines for growth

IF ONE man is responsible for persuading up to 132 world leaders to travel to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil for the Earth summit, it is Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

He has largely inspired the summit agenda and he bears a heavy responsibility for raising ecologists' hopes of a successful conclusion. Heroic terms come naturally in trying to describe his enterprise, yet Mr Strong, 63, is not built in the heroic mould. He is short and stout, with a small moustache. Pudgy would describe him. Still less does his professional calling fit the image we carry of the environmental crusader saving whales, rainforests, and ultimately the planet. He is a cheerful businessman and a millionaire.

Mr Strong displays an optimism undented by President Bush's decision not to sign the summit's world wildlife treaty, the convention on biodiversity, which Britain and other countries may follow. He insists with disconcerting amiability that the world will simply go over the cliff if it does not change its path. He lists many countries that have shown that a sharp change of course is possible.

He insists, too, that the industrialised nations have to provide the developing countries with new aid to enable them to change to an environmentally friendly course, and

### MAN IN THE NEWS

The fact that the Earth summit is happening at all is mainly down to one man, Michael McCarthy writes

suggests that \$5-10 billion (£2.7-£5.5 billion) a year would be "a credible beginning".

Mr Strong has been mixing business and concern for the environment for more than 25 years. Little known to the public, he is a solidly rich self-made man from humble beginnings, the son of an unemployed railway worker from rural Manitoba. He made a fortune in the oil business and broadened his course when he was asked to run Canada's foreign aid programme.

He broke into global green politics when appointed secretary-general of the UN's first environmental conference at Stockholm in 1972, which put the environment on the international political agenda. Subsequently, for three years he was the first director of the UN environment programme, and in the mid-1980s co-ordinated the UN's famine relief efforts in Africa.

In between, he continued picking up directorships, including the chairmanship of

Petro Canada, the national oil company. He sees no clash between his business and environmental interests: quite the opposite, for the core of the thesis he is propounding and that he wishes world leaders to endorse is that economics and the environment must be integrated. "Some people wonder how I can be a businessman and an environmentalist," he says. "But if I am preaching the integration of the environment and the economy, does it not make sense for me to integrate them in my own life?"

Mr Strong is held to have made a real success of the Stockholm conference by bringing in the developing countries, which until then were suspicious of environmental concern as a possible brake on their growth. But his aim in Rio de Janeiro is infinitely more ambitious: to get every country to switch its economy on to an environmentally friendly path.

He insists, however, that if the poor developing countries are to change, the industrialised nations of the north must provide them with new aid.

Does he believe that success is possible at Rio? "I believe that success is possible; I think it is probable, but success is not inevitable," he says, adding that President Bush's decision not to sign the biodiversity treaty has not made him lose hope. He says: "I hope that they will take a second look at it."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Carey gives warning on failure

London: Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke yesterday of the "catastrophic cost" of failure at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The archbishop, in Geneva, called on the countries taking part to resist defeatism and to oppose critics who say the competing interests of developed and developing countries cannot be harmonised. "It is a crucial meeting for human co-operation on the future of God's creation. Talk of a new world order was 'void and meaningless' unless God was central to the goal," he said.

Dr Carey, who has a long record of interest in the environment, had hoped to raise the profile of population growth on the summit agenda. He appealed to the Roman Catholic Church to change its position on birth control a week before his private visit to the Pope last week. Dr Carey believes population growth is straining the Earth's resources.

### Flight plan

Cairo: Egypt will propose at the Earth summit a tax of \$1 on every passenger taking an international flight, the money to go into an international environment fund, Arafat Mohammad Arafat Obaid, the cabinet affairs minister, said. (Reuters)

### Japan pleased

Tokyo: The Japanese foreign ministry welcomed the forest conservation programme announced by President Bush and said that Japan would study possible ways of responding to the American initiative, which it called "significant". (AFP)

### EC accused

Brussels: Canada has accused EC fishing fleets of overfishing near its territorial waters but the European Commission denied this. However, the Commission told the fleets to pull out having achieved their 1992 catch quotas. (AFP)

### Emir starts tour

Kuwait: The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, flew to Mexico for a Latin American tour before attending the Earth summit. Kuwait suffered severe environmental damage during the Gulf war prompted by the Iraqi invasion. (Reuters)

### £288m pledged

Geneva: The United Nations said that it had received promises of £288 million towards an appeal to prevent millions of people starving in Southern Africa. America, the European Community, Japan and Scandinavia were the main donors. (AP)

### Pele hopeful

Rio de Janeiro: Pele, whose football skills propelled him from poverty to riches, told slum children that the Earth summit will lead to a better world. He was speaking to soccer tournament teams made up of children from Kenya and Brazil. (Reuters)

## Ravaged republics fear costly curbs

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

### VIEW FROM RUSSIA

THE republics of the former Soviet Union, ravaged by many of the world's worst nuclear, ecological and environmental catastrophes, will give strong support to the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro, but have virtually no money to implement any of the proposals.

Russia and Ukraine told the European Community in April that they cannot make any binding commitment to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide because of the cost of modernising their antiquated industry. They will also have difficulty phasing out chemical pollution and are wary of other commitments which would impose new costs on struggling industries.

The former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe together produce a quarter of the worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide. The Soviet Union signed the Montreal protocol to cut the use and production of chlorofluorocarbons, but the republics have been unable to honour it. Russia and Ukraine now say they cannot afford any commitment to reduce the build-up of gases causing the greenhouse effect. Public opinion strongly favours international controls

of the environment. But with unemployment rising and industrial output falling, most republics cannot enforce ambitious plans to clean up their land, air and water.

Some of the most environmentally damaging plans have been dropped and curbs have been placed on certain high-visibility pollutants, such as the paper mills on the shores of Lake Baikal, the world's largest freshwater lake. But the ecological balance of Siberia is still being destroyed by oil production and destruction of the taiga. In the Tyumen region, oil spills have polluted huge areas, and one-third of all joints on pipelines are leaking oil.

The Aral Sea is continuing to shrink because too much water is siphoned off for cotton production from the rivers flowing into it. Many rivers and lakes are almost dead because of chemical and oil pollution.

At Rio, the priority of Aleksandr Ruskol, the Russian vice-president, will be to avoid binding Moscow to unachievable goals and to seek help from Western nations for the clean-up his country needs.

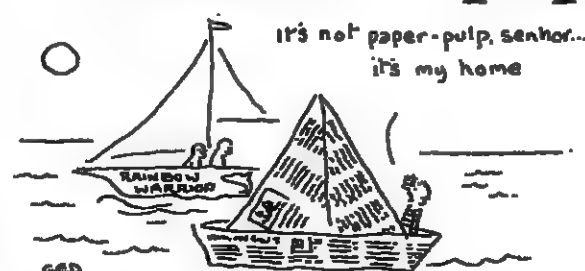
### RIO DE JANEIRO NOTEBOOK by Gabriella Gamini

## Warrior embarks on paper chase

Captain Joan Guaitar sailed his ship into Rio de Janeiro on Monday evening to add yet another dimension to the environment conference. Rainbow Warrior, a 40 ft sailing ship, docked in Rio as a sign of protest against Brazilian companies considered polluters which. Greenpeace claim, are acting as advisers to Earth summit leaders.

Rainbow Warrior sailed for two days along the coast of Brazil to reach Rio marina at one of the city's main beaches in Flamengo after docking at a port in northern Brazil to blockade the paper pulp shipments from a factory in the city of Vitoria. "We blockade shipments coming from the Aracruz paper mill because they have put huge eucalyptus plantations over a rain forest and totally destroyed the lives of indigenous tribes living there," said Andrea Figari, one of the 22 crew members.

Summit organisers fear that Rainbow Warrior may take blockading action around Rio de Janeiro, to protest against petroleum companies and factories which release chemicals and raw sewage directly into the sea off the city.



Captain Guaitar and his crew say that they are not certain what kind of action they will take, during their stay in Rio de Janeiro.

Meanwhile, world leaders from more than 125 countries will start arriving at Rio's Galeao international airport, to find Brazilian army soldiers in tanks and battle fatigues lining the motorway leading into the city.

More than 15,000 soldiers have been deployed to maintain security in the city.

Troops surround Rio de Janeiro's notorious favelas, or slums, where more than a third of the city's population live. They fear crime against visitors from the slum dwellers who inhabit cardboard and corrugated iron shacks built on the steep hillsides around the city. "Our orders are to stop

people coming out of the favelas into areas where environmental visitors are staying. We have to hide this side of Brazil. It's not a nice thing for outsiders to see," said a soldier standing below a slum overlooking Copacabana beach.

But it will be difficult for Rio de Janeiro to hide the makeshift dwellings of the thousands who have built cardboard homes under motorways or on the pavements.

Dozens of helicopters fly on patrol along the city's beaches every morning in an effort to combat the high rate of crime for which Rio de Janeiro is known. "Be careful, do not wear your watch or the press badge, people are getting attacked for those things," said the hotel concierge one morning.

The main conference

centre at Riocentro, 19 miles outside the city, is also surrounded by tanks and armoured trucks. Soldiers patrol the hills and the tropical vegetation around the building. Inside, delegations from different nations taking part in the Earth summit argue various procedural problems before the heads of state arrive. So far they have been unable to agree how much time will be allocated to each head of state to make his or her speech. "We spent the past days arguing about who will be able to say more," said one Western delegate.

Some delegates were told to stand in hour-long queues outside the Earth summit centre's meeting hall because identification cards were not ready.

The only thing that appears to be ready and waiting is the huge round table at which the world leaders will sit to decide on future environmental issues. That is, if they ever manage to endure the traffic-clogged trip of one and a half hours from the hotels on Copacabana and Ipanema beaches to the Riocentro building — and got past all the levels of security in time.

## Peking puts onus for clean-up on West

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

### VIEW FROM CHINA

THE burgeoning economic growth of the past decade has spread smogstacks across China's rural plains and chemical waste outlets along the banks of its rivers.

China is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases among the developing countries. Worldwide, it has been estimated to be the third or fourth largest offender.

Despite China's considerable pollution problems, Li Peng, the prime minister, has only been persuaded to go to Rio in the past few days. First, he had to be assured that he will not have to be in the same room as the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, who will attend only the non-governmental meeting.

Mr Li is being officially described as an environmentalist. In Rio de Janeiro, he will give qualified support for unified action on the environment. He is expected to give a warning, however, that China will not cut back its economic growth, and that the West should expect to bear the brunt of the cost of cleaning up the developing world.

The daughter of Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, Deng Nan, deputy minister of science, technology and the environment, has

become an unofficial spokeswoman in the run-up to the Earth summit. Last month she admitted: "The country's overall ecological and environmental situation continues to deteriorate."

Some 75 per cent of China's energy comes from coal. New hydroelectric and nuclear power plants are being built, but there are plans to mine and burn even more coal, which will remain the predominant source of energy into the next century.

In 1990, factories emitted about 15 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide and 21 million tonnes of industrial dust, about 35.4 billion tonnes of waste water poured into rivers, lakes and ports, and some 580 million tonnes of industrial solid waste was dumped.

In a statement published last Saturday, Qu Geping, the director of China's state administration of the environment, said that developing countries needed \$600 billion (£330 billion) to limit environmental damage. He added that the developed nations should pay at least 20 per cent of this.



# So, who took him seriously?

Last summer, the Chairmen of the big four English clearing banks were summoned before the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This move followed a spate of bad publicity surrounding the treatment of the banks' business customers.

Following these discussions the Chancellor recommended that codes of conduct between banks and their business customers should be initiated. To varying degrees the business charters introduced by the other major clearing banks complied with the minimum standards outlined by the Chancellor.

But The Royal Bank's Charter is recognisably different.

It comes from the bank voted SMALL BUSINESS BANK OF THE YEAR the second consecutive time by the readers of WHAT TO BUY FOR BUSINESS. And it's a Business Banking Charter that sets a new standard.

According to the independent Forum of Private Business (FPB), The Royal Bank of Scotland's Charter is the most effective response to the Chancellor's call for codes of conduct to be introduced.

The FPB, who have over 19,000 members, gave it top rating with a score of 82%.

The Charter clearly creates the kind of one to one relationship that their members need to see them through good times and bad.

In the table opposite compare the performance of other UK business banking codes of practice to ours.

As you can see, overall we have a clear 19 percentage points lead over our nearest competitor.

So what exactly is The Royal Bank of Scotland Business Banking Charter and how does it work?

Each of our business customers will receive a personalised Service Commitment Letter, binding on the Bank for a specified period, setting out clearly the terms on which the account will operate.

A move acknowledged in The House of Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee's report on banking procedures as 'a practice which other banks should follow.'

**It is also a person to person service.**

A named team will be responsible for the management of your account. The FPB's Chief Executive, Stan Mendham, has said: "The Royal Bank has set a new standard by promising to tailor each individual relationship to suit the business concerned."

It also gives a commitment that overdraft facilities will only be removed in exceptional circumstances and, wherever possible, with notification.

The result will be less anxiety for small businesses, especially those who are borrowing."

That, in essence, sums up The Royal Bank of Scotland's Business Banking Charter.

It represents our continuing commitment to offering our customers the best possible service.

As a customer of The Royal Bank of Scotland you will receive your Service Commitment Letter at the time of your next review with the Bank.

For further information, please contact your branch, or call us on 031 523 4027. And find out just how serious our commitment really is.

RATING OF UK BUSINESS BANKING CODES.						
(Percent)	Midland	Lloyds	Nat West	Barclays	Bank of Scotland	Royal Bank
Legality and principle	57	14	86	43	50	100
Contacts and complaints	50	0	100	50	25	100
Charges	86	86	86	86	86	86
Borrowing	70	27	53	53	77	63
Security	33	33	33	33	50	83
Performance monitoring	38	13	26	26	26	50
Overall	63	33	63	53	63	82

Source: Forum of Private Business.

We do not apply standard solutions or operate a standard tariff, but tailor make banking arrangements to suit the needs of a particular business.



**The Royal Bank of Scotland**  
**THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.**



# What price an empty honour?

This week's list will show the urgency of reform, argues Bryan Appleyard

In rapid succession we are about to be assaulted by two honours lists, the first celebrating John Major's parliamentary dissolution, the second the Queen's birthday. As usual, both lists will be arbitrary, bizarre, corrupt, absurd and grossly unfair. Yet the small print of the lists of names will still exert a hypnotic fascination on the nation and, on the recipients, a small glow of irrational, irrepressible pride.

This time the lists will be headed by a smug roster of old parliamentary warhorses — Howe, Lawson, Parkinson, Ridley, Tebbit, Walker and probably Healey. David Owen is likely to sneak into the Lords on the back of a small wave of cross-party generosity, and Margaret Thatcher is said to have compromised with a life peerage instead of an earldom. I would guess also that Jeffrey Archer will finally achieve official recognition, in spite of his novels.

As for the rest, well, there will be the usual grey list of civil servants queuing up for gongs like customers at McDonald's. There will be a sprinkling of sportsmen, a bit of showbiz and the usual scattering of salt-of-the-earth types to give a crunchiness to the list.

**'There will be the usual grey list this time of civil servants queuing up for gongs like customers at McDonald's'**

Government office doormen are particularly favoured for this category, being 100 times more likely to be honoured than school caretakers. Rational defence of this directory is impossible. Orders, said Bismarck, are served for, earned, slavery for or denied. In Britain today, he might have added, they are also crawled for and done nothing for.

Like royalty and the House of Lords, the honours system is replete with the imagery and fantasy of another age. Medals and titles, we are supposed to believe, relate to the hierarchy of an empire and are decked out with the symbolism of national identity and greatness. And, like royalty and the House of Lords, they inspire the intense rage of constitutional reformers, egalitarians and radicals from the hard left to the meritocrats of the new right.

Yet still, like the Queen, they endure with a kind of unflappable acceptance of the unreason of it all. The honours lists have even managed to incorporate a few daft gestures towards the "modern" world. After the Beatles were given MBEs in 1965 it became routine to expect a few, condescending awards to be tossed into the swamp of pop culture.

On the face of it this was just the kind of institutional morass that Mrs Thatcher might have been expected to handbag. But she scattered knighthoods among Tory backbenchers like confetti and was widely accused of dispensing peerages to the big industrial backers of the Conservative party. In fact, she did not give awards to a large number of beneficiaries. Nevertheless, the popular wisdom of the 1980s was that gongs could be bought from politicians.

Predictably, therefore, there is

said to be widespread disillusionment with the whole system. A survey in 1990 suggested that only 7 per cent of the population favoured awards to civil servants and politicians though, significantly, about 60 per cent supported awards to charity and voluntary workers and "ordinary" people. John Major is a champion of classlessness and has appointed that amiable fireman William Waldegrave to clean up the class taint of an award system that gives one kind of medal for officers and one for other ranks. What he is not doing is making threatening moves towards the system as a whole. Evidently he supports the idea of an Establishment, implicit in the idea of an honours list, but one in which a private can be as brave as a colonel, a doorman as dedicated as a novelist.

Such tinkering will do nothing to soothe the anger of the reformers, who see the honours list as one more prop of a deferential society. Those who do acknowledge the possible virtue of official state recognition have called for an ideal of "citizenship" to be embodied in the awards.

Two years ago an all-party commission recommended an overhaul of the list to give more weight to voluntary and charitable work that came under the heading of good citizenship. One can sympathise. The honours are obviously discredited by awards to people who just did the right job. Merely earning your salary and indexed pension cannot, of itself, be virtuous. Doing something additional and unrewarded can. The ideal of citizenship is an attempt to define a secular and post-imperial concept of virtue. It implies that we can all agree, or be educated to agree, that disinterested goodness is universally recognisable.

The problem is that the bewildering pluralism of our society makes any such consensus inconceivable. The rows and disgust promoted by a citizenship honours list would be as intense as those arising from the present secretive muddle. Every minority and special interest group would be screaming for recognition.

Any honours list will be a contentious failure. There is simply no collective national wisdom that would arrive at the names for which this Britain will be known and remembered. Evelyn Waugh, untitled, still embodies more of Britain than the collective of outgoing political barons who will be elevated this week.

Yet abolition is too neat, too clean, too rational. We would miss the list, we would even miss our anger at those not included. Certainly it should be cleaned up, and also greatly shortened to give the awards more meaning. But, for the moment, it remains what the historian Norman Stone calls "a supportable outrage", something worth having because it tries to mean something, however bizarre, corrupt and arbitrary.

Philip Howard welcomes the television viewers of Russia to the cosy world of soap opera

## Meet the Smirnovs

After McDonald's hamburgers, funk-fusion and carefully faded Levis, the Russians are about to receive the ultimate cachet that they have arrived in the global village of consumerism: their own soap opera. It is called *The Smirnovs*, and is being filmed in Vienna and Moscow, to be screened on Russian television later this summer.

Like all good soaps, it offers romance, passion, cosy suspense, and a banal vision of heaven. Being Russian, it is also didactic. The series consists of 20 two-part episodes each 45 minutes long, the first being the soap played by actors, the second a commentary by real-life pundits on the lessons on the market economy that can be learnt from the first half. The world's newest television family, the Smirnovs, are discovering the brave new world of capitalism.

The telephone shrills in the Moscow apartment. Father Sergei Smirnov answers and shouts to the family excitedly: "It's Katja, calling from Vienna. She says Pyotr is in a department store,

stuck in an elevator 20 metres above the ground." "Oh heavens", screams Granny Smirnov. "Katja," says Father Smirnov, with emphasis, "someone must climb up there at once and bring the boy down." Not to worry, says Katja. This is the West. Someone will be along shortly.

Daughter Katja is studying economics at Vienna University. Her brother Pyotr is a long-distance lorry driver. Their adventures in Vienna are about to bring the pleasures and perils and lessons of the capitalist world into the living rooms of millions of Russians. The production is a joint one by the Moscow Institute for the World Economy and Ecovision, a Viennese maker of economic didactic films. Russian television has joined them. The Austrian government has contributed about half of the \$2 million budget.

The soap opera has become the brief and abstract chronicle of our time. It catches the spirit of its age, whether it is Madge and Harold with their coffee shop in Erinsborough, that ghostly suburb of Melbourne, and the feverish sexual turmoil that bubbles around it, or *The Archers* and *EastEnders* tackling supposedly daring topics such as illegitimacy, drugs and racial tension. The soap has become our common language, our shared anxiety. It is the only art form that crosses all boundaries of class and race, in the way that the main women's magazines used to and before that the early wireless.

*The Smirnovs* is going to aim at the zeitgeist of post-communist Russia. Gerhard Friedrich, the managing director of Ecovision, told *The Wall Street Journal*: "Many Russians think that now communism is giving way to capitalism the wonderful paradise is at hand. We want to show how to organise that paradise. And where the limits of paradise are. At first we had the concept that the Smirnovs would become rich. But we decided viewers would think the market economy means only to be wealthy. What it means is the chance to be wealthy."

The series sounds a bit heavy compared with the systematic triviality of Western soaps. It begins, for instance, with the Smirnovs at an ice-hockey match, with a narrator comparing the activity on ice with the rough and tumble of capitalism. Mr Friedrich explains: "The risk of being an entrepreneur is similar to the risk of an ice-hockey player skating through the defences. You get the idea?" You bet.

In one episode, Katja meets a friendly corporate lawyer who explains to her the many ways of setting up a business, and then tries to seduce her. He does not succeed, of course. That would not be *kulturny*. That sort of thing may do for Dirty Den, but Moscow is not yet ready for it.

As for Pyotr stuck in his lift, he is not left dangling there, as he would be, no doubt, in Moscow. After the narrator has explained the function of yellow pages in a telephone directory, "there are 13 pages of firms which install windows", an emergency repair company is called to get him down.

In the last episode, Pyotr comes back to Moscow with a rent, and encourages father, mother and grandma to come on a camping holiday to Vienna. As a rehearsal, they pitch the tent in their living room. Will the Smirnovs make it to Vienna? Will Katja get her degree and make a go of business? Will Pyotr get his own fleet of juggernauts? Stay tuned to Moscow television. The Russians are about to join the rest of us at our soapy window on the world.

## Look back in treachery

The East has reopened a dangerous chapter of history, says Roger Boyes

Fifty years ago this week two British-trained agents parachuted into Czechoslovakia and murdered Reinhard Heydrich, one of the most brutal of Hitler's SS officers. It was a spectacular and desperate act: Heydrich had to be assassinated because he was breaking an already weak resistance movement. Revenge came fast. Hours after the attack whole families were being executed and an entire village, Lidice, was destroyed.

Nothing illustrates better the cost of resistance against tyranny than this murder and its aftermath. It also helps to explain the background to wartime collaboration in Eastern Europe. When hundreds of innocents were slaughtered for one act of rebellion, even passive resistance seemed reckless. And East Europe is now discovering the distance between non-resistance and collaboration is not large. This moral marshland, out of bounds for five decades, has been thrown open to the public. Central European states are nervously excavating their communist police files, the latest being Poland, which will vet all collaborators for the period 1945 to 1990.

The question of Nazi collaboration has become eerily relevant. Is wartime collaboration a useful precedent for judging the communist experience? Can collaboration ever be justified? Was it reasonable to work with Nazis for the "higher good" of independent statehood?

It is easy to forget that Hitler's early wars of conquest were seen as a liberation by many of the peoples of Eastern Europe. After the destruction of Yugoslavia in 1941, Ante Pavlovic and his Ustasha organisation took over the running of an independent Croatian state that, apart from Croatia, Slavonia and almost all of Dalmatia, also took in Bosnia and Herzegovina — 6.5 million inhabitants, of whom only about 3.4 million were Croats.

The Ustasha state, modelled on Italian Fascism and the Nazi order, was one of Hitler's most trusted Balkan outposts. There were dreadful atrocities. For many

Croats, however, it remains a golden era, and though Zagreb historians concede some Ustasha crimes, the territorial sweep of that state shapes the dreams of today's radical nationalists.

By the same token, Slovaks pressing for separation from the Czechs regard Father Josef Tiso's independent wartime state as a useful model. Tiso's Slovakia was entirely beholden to Hitler. Apologists say Tiso learnt late of Jewish deportations and did his best to stop them. And what about the Czechs, they add: did they not collaborate with the Nazis? Indeed, some did.

The Baltic states welcomed the German attack on the Soviet Union. Lithuanians suspected of war crimes still argue that they were not so much pro-Hitler as anti-communist patriots, that working with the Germans was the only sure way to independence.

The difficulty history leaves is that for some states the only modern experience of independent statehood was in the Fascist era. When the communists took over they carried out their denazification with such clumsy selectivity that the process was discredited. The result is that Fascism retains a latent appeal in the East. If there had been a thorough reformation, the political outlook in Eastern Europe today might be better. But the communists were more than willing to take over Nazi organisational structures and buildings, German police files and informers.

The East Germans, as the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal points out, rounded up some Nazis but left others in place, allowing them to rise in the communist hierarchy. The Hungarians deliberately left alone many Fascists from working-class or peasant backgrounds and targeted the conservatives of the prime minister Miklos Kalay, whose war record was unblemished. The political aim of denazification and war-crimes investigations was to wipe out rivals. The supporters of Fascism were also needed to swell the thin ranks of the post-war Communist parties. By signing a



Heydrich: the SS officer whose murder is a symbol for an uneasy past

simple statement, the so-called "small" Fascists of Hungary could switch allegiance to the communists. Nazi collaborators became communist collaborators.

Nevertheless, present-day communist collaborators have to be judged on a different basis. The Czechoslovaks and the east Germans have been leading the way in witch-hunting. Prague is far more zealous in tracking down communist informers than it ever was in

searching for Nazi sympathisers. Police agents are to be banned from holding state office for at least five years. This may seem a fitting revenge by those intellectuals and rebels once condemned to be window cleaners for their political beliefs, but it is vendetta, not justice. Collaboration with the Stalinist secret police was to share the guilt of that period. But by the 1980s most East European secret police forces had become bloated

and were doing little more than add up to collaboration. Is it comparable to helping the Nazis? There are no moral absolutes in this matter: collaboration is a matter of degree and motive. East Europe should ease up on its witch-hunts. There must be sensible vetting for ministers or high officials in sensitive posts. But it is difficult to imagine anything quite as destructive as dividing the tired, strained societies of the post-communist world into collaborators and victims.



### ...and moreover ALAN COREN

While I should not wish to be the horseshoe nail that breaks the back of the camel about to be designed by the Rio committee, I have to say that, yesterday, John Major and I were at one. When, in a characteristically iridescent burst of oratory, the PM roared: "I am very keen for us to make progress generally at the Rio summit, but I have been warning for some time that some of the expectations for the summit are higher than those that can be realistically achieved," I punched the air.

The man knew. He might have been sitting beside me, on the pile of Rake-and-Roll sacks in the yard of Erith Building Supplies, so uncomely had he articulated the seething thoughts that had taken me into the yard from the warehouse behind it, to sit reading *The Times* until my brain was ready to go back in and re-address the small matter of saving the Earth. Do you, by the way, know about Rake-and-Roll? It is a compound of chippings and tar that rabbits use when they wish to lay off-street parking, after they have ripped out their gardens at £6.69 per 25kg sack, and when I phoned London Drums, he said get off, we don't do wood, we do metal, phone a brewer, so I phoned Ind-Coope, and Watney's, and Guinness, and they all cried Wood? these days, Wood? so then I phoned garden centres, and some said do you mean a tub, we do wooden tubs, they're old barrels cut in half, very nice, very rustic, and I said can I get one before it's cut in half, and they said no,

much as one cares about new and frill-free, there is a time when the man of honour says what the hell, it's only Rake-and-Roll. So I just trudged back inside, to try to work out, once again, how to caulk.

It is some weeks now since I began my search for a rain-butt. As you know, very little water has flowed under the bridge since then, and my agitation about conserving such little as falls has grown daily more intense. For no man is an island, we are all global kin, and we cannot ask an Amazonian pauper to hang up his axe if we are not going to do our own bit over here.

But try to get a barrel. Oh, unrepentant opportunist will sell you a green plastic one, look a treat standing on your Rake-and-Roll, tub of vinyl azaleas either side, but the whole purpose of the enterprise is defeated if all you're doing is encouraging the extrusion industry. What I wanted was an old wooden barrel, so I grabbed the Yellow Pages, but there was just one entry under Drums, Kegs, Barrels & Casks, and when I phoned London Drums, he said get off, we don't do wood, we do metal, phone a brewer, so I phoned Ind-Coope, and Watney's, and Guinness, and they all cried Wood? these days, Wood? so then I phoned garden centres, and some said do you mean a tub, we do wooden tubs, they're old barrels cut in half, very nice, very rustic, and I said can I get one before it's cut in half, and they said no,

what about a green plastic one, so I wondered about getting the other phone book and going through all the Coopers, never know your luck, but there were thousands, and I was just on the point of chucking in the towel when a neighbour said there were old barrels on Crickwood allotments which didn't belong to anyone, and within half an hour one belonged to me, and I drove it home with the boot-lid banging on it, and rolled it into the garden, and my wife said, er, are you supposed to be able to see light between the staves? Come on, I said, it only needs caulking. I don't believe I had used the word before. It felt good just saying it.

They had never used the word at Erith Building Supplies, either, but they got the gist. They pointed me at the roofing aisle. There was Aqueal 88 mastic to be laid to a thickness of 1.5mm after you had primed with Aqueal 44, there was Ruberoid liquid rubber for high-performance, there was Synthaproof 7 for all-weather proofing, there was Fermatex lap cement for that stubborn job, there was Epoxide D4 epoxy tar-coating "for use in aggressive conditions", there was...

I applied a couple of these last evening, and at first light I could see it through the barrel. So I shall be back at Erith this afternoon. You have to, if you want to save the Earth. Especially if some of your expectations are higher than those that can be realistically achieved.

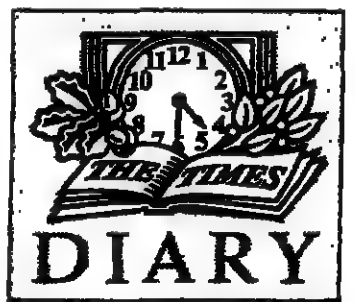
### Kinnock drops out

IN WHAT some will inevitably interpret as a snub, Neil Kinnock has decided not to be present at the moment when the party leadership passes to his successor, who will almost certainly be John Smith. To the astonishment of some parliamentary colleagues, Kinnock has also refused an invitation to deliver the opening address at the leadership conference, at London's Royal Horticultural Hall on July 18.

Party managers had expected Kinnock to pose for the cameras with the new leader in his moment of victory. Instead, Kinnock has chosen to attend a ceremony at the University of Wales in Cardiff, where he will be presented with an honorary doctorate of law. The university says Kinnock will attend lunch with the Prince of Wales afterwards, which should rule out welcoming the new leader, whom Walworth Road says will be in place by 2.30pm. By the time Kinnock returns to London the conference will have moved on to the election of the deputy leader.

Kinnock's decision, revealed to colleagues at a meeting of the party's national executive committee, will fuel reports that he thinks John Smith's high taxation policies cost him his chance of becoming prime minister. The retiring leader had already let it be known that he did not intend to vote in the contest, but few suspected that he would absent himself on his last day as leader.

Janet Jones, assistant registrar at Cardiff, says: "It has long been fixed and we are looking forward to him coming. We would have been very disappointed if he had pulled out." There is, it seems, no chance of that, as Glynis Kinnock this week made clear in her first



interview since the election. "I'm looking forward to July 18," she said with obvious relief. "By chance we'll be in Cardiff that day. It will be a very happy day for us."

● Nadine Gordimer flew into London briefly this week to reveal for the first time what she is doing with the £570,000 Nobel prize money she won last year. She is using at least part of the handsome sum to encourage African writing in languages such as Zulu and Swazi. "We already have an anthology of short stories being translated into two languages, and we have just put advertisements in the press calling for examples from everywhere of popular literature in different African languages," she says.

### Absent at Epsom

ONE of Lester Piggott's closest friends, the man who claimed to be his biggest fan, will be absent from Epsom today as the 56-year-old jockey seeks his tenth Derby win. Yesterday Piggott attended the funeral of Charles St George, the racehorse owner and Lloyd's underwriter, at Farm Street Church in Mayfair. St George provided Piggott with his first ride on the jockey's comeback in 1990. The St George estate does not have a horse running in today's big race

and Piggott rides Robert Sangster's Rodrigo De Triano. The racing calendar will be less colourful for St George's absence.

### War-Plath

A NEW chapter in the controversy surrounding Ted Hughes and his late wife, Sylvia Plath, has been opened with the sale of a first edition of Plath's *Colossus* poems, personally inscribed and left to the poet laureate.

The Sylvia Plath Society says it fears the volume is the first of a tranche of Plath's books and papers Hughes might sell. Elizabeth Sigmund, president of the society, says: "I think it is amazing that he is selling this book, which should go to the family. If he does not want it he should give it to the children. Frieda and Nicholas, or to one of Britain's libraries."

The next volume to reach the market would be Plath's annotated version of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*, she predicted. The bookseller Richard Gekoski confirms the sale of *Colossus* to an anonymous American buyer but refuses to discuss price or seller.

Yesterday, at their Devonshire farmhouse, Ted and Carol Hughes expressed annoyance at the allegations, which they felt bore no resemblance to the facts. "This volume of *Colossus* was owned by one of Sylvia Plath's and Ted Hughes's children," they said in a joint statement. "Four Quartets is not for sale." Coincidentally Hughes's next book, *A Dancer to God*, is a homage to Eliot.

### Pale and drawn

THERE was just one absentee from the Royal Academy's annual summer exhibition dinner on Monday night. Sir Roger de Grey, the RA's president, was in bed with flu, and is likely to stay

there for the rest of the week, missing the opening of the RA's most important event of the year.

A frustrated de Grey had spent hours preparing his speech before being struck down. "I'm being sensible for now but I don't know how long that will last," he said



yesterday from his sickbed. Indeed he is already contemplating following the example of Dame Elizabeth Frink, whose monumental bronze *War Horse* dominates the exhibition. Frink produced the horse at intervals during convalescence from a recent illness. "I couldn't manage a whole horse," says de Grey. "But perhaps a small rabbit..."

● Contrasting fortunes for expelled former left-wing MPs. While Ron Brown signed on for the dole on Monday, his former colleague Dave Nellis yesterday started a new career, as a legal adviser with the Coventry solicitors Robert Zava & Co. The proletarian Nellis was famous at Westminster for taking only the wage of the average skilled worker. "I doubt there is much difference between what he earned then and what he earns now," says his new employer.





# BIODEGRADABLE TREATY

Britain should sign a "bio-diversity" convention, preferably a version of the one under debate at Rio this month. But it cannot sign the "unsignable" convention at present proposed. That such a faulty document could ever have reached Rio is a measure of the carelessness with which diplomats have long treated this important subject.

The world has scarcely begun to tap the resources of the tropical rainforests, wetlands, coral reefs and other wild habitats. Of the millions of plants and animals they are thought to contain, a mere 1.4 million have been listed. This is the Earth's genetic insurance policy, potentially a source of unknown foods and medicines. Over half these species are found in tropical moist forests, whose preservation is important for climatic stability. So far are they being destroyed that up to 7 per cent of the Earth's biological diversity could disappear within 25 years.

The case for preserving this diversity by means of one of the two binding agreements offered for signature at the Rio conference is thus overwhelming. The great mass of biological wealth is found in poor countries, most with rapidly growing land-hungry populations. The chief commercial value of these habitats is by destroying them for timber and grazing. Commercial development of "genetic resources" mostly takes place in the industrialised world. Unless poor countries are compensated for conserving these resources they will, they say, have to put short-run before long-run development. Hence conservation and its immediate costs must be a shared world responsibility.

However strong the case for a bio-diversity convention, the actual text on the table at Rio is such a botched piece of drafting that Britain's doubts about signing, and America's refusal to do so, are well founded. The convention is sketchy on species and habitat protection but long on aid. A vocal minority of Third World governments see any monitoring as neo-imperialism. Bluntly, they want money with no strings. They wish to retain control over the exploitation of genetic resources. A sensible principle that poor countries should be rewarded for protecting species has been turned into a binding obligation on the West to provide a grandiose, multi-course, free lunch.

Under the convention, the developed

countries will be legally obliged to pay developing countries for the full costs of conservation, to share with them the profits of genetic research and development, and to transfer bio-technology to countries providing genetic resources, "including technology protected by patents and other intellectual property rights". This explicitly drives a coach and horses through existing international patent law. No more effective disincentive to gene-splicing and other forms of bio-research could have been devised.

In addition, developed countries could be obliged to contribute whatever sum the majority of signatories — which will be Third World countries — decide is needed to meet the aims of the convention. They will have no veto. Nor will the paper call the time when the money thus extracted is spent. Decisions on conservation strategies and priorities, on who gets this money and how it is used would also be taken by "democratic" means.

Article 39 concedes that these funds would be managed by the World Bank's Global Environment Fund (GEF), in which donors now have the decisive voice. But this is no concession since it also stipulates that the GEF rules be "restructured" to make all its decisions conform with the bio-diversity convention's majoritarian procedures. The GEF would rapidly become unworkable, an outcome which affects not only this convention but the other Rio convention on climate change, funds for which are also to be channelled through the GEF. This document was initiated in Nairobi on May 22 by 98 countries, including Britain and the US. What on earth did the Western lawyers present think they were doing?

The officials who negotiated this have landed their political masters in an appalling fix. With America refusing to sign, British and almost certainly other European ministers are convinced that the bio-diversity convention is unsignable as it stands. With near hysterical lobbyists hogging the media on every street corner in Rio, John Major is over a political barrel. Britain's best hope is to make the Third World see that any convention is better than none and broker a workable compromise, with proper checks and balances. Some aid for conservation is better than none. A sensible basis of genetic exploitation is better than a free for all. A workable treaty is in everybody's interest.

## TRUST THE BBC

Had yesterday's report from the National Audit Office exposed a scandal of profligacy and mismanagement in the inner workings of the BBC World Service, the clamour for a rigorous regime of outside supervision would have been deafening. The report does not do so. This bright corner of the vast and besieged BBC empire receives its entire £143 million budget from the taxpayer via the Foreign Office. And it is the Foreign Office that clearly deserves criticism.

The NAO inspectors found that Bush House, which houses the service's studios and headquarters in London, is run as a tight ship. By such measures as studio occupancy — 90 per cent at peak times — the World Service record is exemplary, and the pressure on its broadcasters to be cost-effective is tangible. The service has about 120 million regular listeners at a cost of about £1 a listener a year. The NAO says it is "among the best known and most reputable" international radio organisations anywhere in the world. Mikhail Gorbachev would not be alone in querying the "among".

Despite this vote of confidence, the Foreign Office continues meticulous tinkering with the BBC's management and priorities. The NAO reports that the diplomatic department of the FO had used its right to specify to where the World Service may broadcast, in order, for instance, to close down the Japanese language service in 1991. It was a case where "the World Service's priorities did not mesh with the department's"; and where the Foreign Office was swayed by the relatively high cost of the Japanese service.

Such decisions ought to be left to the BBC. Japan is a fellow G7 country, a major player

on the world stage, said to be investing in Britain at an annual rate of £3 billion a year. By contrast, the BBC puts out 26 hours in Polish a week, making Poland the World Service's fourth (out of 37) highest priority. Poland is doubtless a worthy recipient of such broadcasting largesse, though a World Service survey there in 1989 could find no more than a 1.9 million regular audience, 7 per cent of the population. The Polish comparison makes the Foreign Office axing of the Japanese-language service all the odder. It calls in question the system by which the relationship between the BBC World Service and the government is conducted. Under this system the FO issues a directive, a so-called "Prescription", to tell the BBC where to broadcast and for how long (but not what to broadcast), in return for its money. The FO says it bases its instructions to the BBC on its own diplomatic priorities. Thus the Arabic service is top of the list but there is no Hebrew service at all; and while there is nothing in Japanese or Malay, there is a service in Finnish and even Nepali.

The audit office suggests the World Service should be given more freedom within the Prescription system, which was too inflexible. But it also wants more radical solutions. The government should move towards "putting that relationship on a more contractual basis, in the way that has been successfully developed in other areas of government work". Better to allow the BBC, at arms-length from government, to use its own judgment. At this stage of its existence, the World Service has enough local knowledge to know where to concentrate according to broadcasting criteria alone. The world trusts it. So should the British government.

## LESSON FOR MR PATTEN

Britain's independent boarding schools were thrilled that Labour did not win the election. Had it done so, thousands of parents who have only just managed to scrape together their school fees during the recession would have been so hard hit by tax increases that little Jeremy and Jermina would have had to go to state schools instead. But for some schools, the reprieve may only be temporary. Boarding is becoming more expensive and less favoured; many boarding schools are struggling to survive.

Hence the inventive solution suggested by David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service: if local-authority schools are to be allowed to opt out and become grant-maintained, why should not fee-paying schools "opt in" to grant-maintained status? Now that opted-out schools are allowed to be selective, the character of the school need not change. Jeremy and Jermina's parents will be mightily relieved. So will the governors.

The idea fits logically, albeit as a reduction to absurdity, into the government's confused education policy. Ministers want to promote diversity in schooling. Good schools should be allowed to expand to meet demand; bad schools will eventually be forced to close. Parental demand for places at Eton is large; doubtless it would increase still further if the fees dropped from £11,000 a year to the boarding costs alone, courtesy of the taxpayer and John Patten's burgeoning direct grant budget.

With city technology colleges the government has already accepted that new schools

should be encouraged to start up as centres of excellence. Why not simply adopt an existing private school? If parents want a boarding school, who is the Secretary of State to stand in the way of such diversity and choice? And what could do more to erode the notorious class divide between public and private sector? What could have both middle-class parents and Labour politicians more delighted in unison? So why not nationalise private education by paying for it and otherwise leave it alone? Those parents who spend large sums simply to buy their children a better education would no longer need to do so.

Presumably opting-in will never be allowed to happen short of a universal voucher scheme. The Treasury wins an almost free ride from private schools, apart from charitable status and the small subsidy of the assisted places scheme. Yet the ISIS proposal ingeniously shows up the unfairness of the policy of opting-out. If one school can be offered large government grants why should not another, merely because it is currently in private rather than local authority ownership?

Grant-maintained schools will, sooner or later, come to ape private schools in their selectivity. Selection may be by parent's social status or by ability. Either way a social divide will open up with the surviving local council schools. To fuse the opted-out sector with the private sector and leave only the council schools behind would at least reduce by one the divisions that Mr Patten wants to inject into the British school system.

## Changing the rules on opt-out schools

From Councillor Chris Adamson

Sir, Your editorial, "Opting for what?" (May 28), is a welcome contribution to the debate that is needed on grant-maintained schools. It does seem that the government is trying to change the rules by the back door and with the least possible discussion.

As you say, testing will be inevitable as over-subscribed schools have to find some method of selection, but the government is introducing other changes that also lead to a two-tier education system.

The proposal to give popular schools more capital resources means that those schools with fewer resources in poorer inner-city areas are likely to get very little money although their buildings are crumbling away.

The publication of tests and attendance levels, without any guidance as to how to interpret this information, will encourage schools to weed out children who might affect their league-table status.

You say the opt-out boat is rudderless and heading for the rocks, but the offer of extra government money for struggling schools may look very appealing.

There must be a public debate on how to ensure a good-quality, decent education for all children whatever their ability. London councils are beginning the debate. Let us hope the government responds by telling us its real objectives.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS ADAMSON (Chairman, Education Committee),  
Association of London Authorities,  
36 Old Queen Street, SW1,  
May 28.

From Miss Hilary Armstrong, MP

Sir, Your leader rightly points to the vacuum at the heart of the government's thinking. Are they really convinced that nationalisation of schools is the way forward? How do they ensure more equitable funding? Who is going to do the follow-up to ensure the right action is taken after an inspection? What does the rhetoric of parental choice mean when there is no independent system of appeal to the decision of opted-out schools on admissions?

The questions are many. The task is clear: to develop an education system which ensures the best educated and trained population in Europe. That needs the willing co-operation and enthusiasm of all involved, parents, teachers, local authorities, churches and local communities.

The 1944 Education Act was preceded by two years of consultation and discussion, in wartime. The white paper should give the Secretary of State the opportunity to

build the sort of consensus that Rab Butler sought. He cannot do that in two months over the summer period.

Yours sincerely,  
HILARY ARMSTRONG  
(Labour education spokesperson),  
House of Commons,  
May 29.

From the President, Society of Education Officers

Sir, Nick Seaton, of the Campaign for Real Education (later, May 27), should know better than to imply that 30 per cent of local education authority funds are spent on bureaucrats. The 30 per cent of local authority budget which is centrally managed is largely spent on home-to-school transport, student grants and support for children with special educational needs, not to mention free school meals and carers.

The average authority will spend around 5 per cent of its total budget on central administration. These staff include those who deal with finance, personnel issues, property maintenance, school admissions and attendance, curriculum support and monitoring, inspection and advice, including training and guidance, and providing checks and balances for parents, students and teachers. The vast majority of non-teachers are actually employed in the schools and colleges as support staff.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH ANDERSON,  
President,  
Society of Education Officers,  
20 Bedford Way, WC1,  
May 29.

From Professor Antony Flew

Sir, Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, tells us (later, May 27) that "all teachers would agree that teaching and assessment go hand in hand". It is good to have his assurance that this is now the case. For had it always been so we would surely already have an established and comprehensive system of examinations enabling us to know how many of our children, after ten years of tax-financed compulsory education, are leaving school functionally illiterate and innumerate.

As it is, although it is generally agreed that there is a serious and substantial failure under both heads, the evidence is far less direct, clearer and decisive than it should be, and would be, had there always been universal agreement upon the principle which Mr McAvoy now propounds as obvious and universally accepted.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONY FLEW,  
26 Alexandra Road,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
May 27.

numerous initiatives have suffered from the same fatal flaw. They have had no teeth sharp enough to bite those who think it smart to sail as close to the law as possible.

Your leader rightly supports the report as a last chance for self-regulation, but if legislation is to be introduced to strengthen the hand of auditors, then why not do the same for outside directors?

The government should now think very carefully whether the concept of a voluntary code without support of legal sanctions will go far enough to restore the image of the City.

Yours sincerely,  
WATKINSON (President, CBI, 1976-7),  
Tyma House, Shore Road,  
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex.

From Mr Ian M. Duncan

Sir, As a matter of record I am writing to let you know that Guinness, one of the companies referred to by name in your leading article, did not have an audit committee at the time of its problems. Equally, I would confirm that following the problems action was taken. The board was restructured to include a strong representation of non-executive directors and audit and remuneration committees formed. Indeed, the "new" Guinness is already managed in line with the best practices as recommended in the Cadbury report and is, we understand, now looked upon as a role model in corporate governance.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN M. DUNCAN  
(Managing Director of Finance and Administration),  
Guinness plc,  
39 Portman Square, W1,  
May 29.

## Docklands dilemma

From Mr Andrew Hickley

Sir, The arguments excited by the collapse of Olympia and York's Canary Wharf scheme and the potential effects on London Docklands infrastructure have an interesting mirror 50 miles north of London.

In Milton Keynes, the last and greatest of the new towns, millions of pounds have been spent on arguably the most efficient infrastructure system in the country. However, the Milton Keynes Development Corporation led the development from the front with a carefully considered master plan rather than simply responding to the pressures of a so-called "free market".

The undoubted success of Milton Keynes in attracting vast amounts of private investment and in creating over 65,000 new jobs, albeit on a

green-field site, surely proves that the public sector has a vital role to play in the regeneration of inner cities and that the fundamentals of planning control and the development of infrastructure cannot be left solely in the hands of property developers.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW HICKLEY,  
The Stable Flat, Orchards,  
Raveningham, Norfolk,  
May 29.

From Mr Ian Priestner

Sir, Given this morning's reported interest in Canary Wharf by Hong Kong tycoon, Mr Li Ka-Shing, why not invite the Hong Kong Chinese to move to Docklands?

Yours sincerely,  
IAN PRIESTNER,  
16 Kildare Terrace, W2,  
May 29.

## Food facts and fashionable fancies

From the Director-General of the British Nutrition Foundation

Sir, The page which you devoted to nutritional matters on May 28 shows a welcome reawakening of your journalists to the need to distinguish facts and fashionable fancies if confusion is to be avoided.

Fanciful notions become fashionable through the skillful manipulation of the media by vested interests, be they commercial, scientific or political, the latter being largely anti-industrial in their motivation. Their power is often enhanced by the feeble attempts at appeasement by manufacturers under attack.

Happily the public exhibits a great deal more common sense than these dissemblers assume; hence the favourable trends in most health statistics. Of course, consumers will admit to confusion if asked. This is a polite way of saying they intend to ignore the advice of those who are clearly grinding axes.

Among scientists worthy of the name, there is no confusion. Uncertainty, of course, ignorance, inevitably; but nothing that a little more work and much more thought cannot resolve. Those involved in public communication should seek to understand the available facts — they are few and simple — before lending their support to the latest nutritional fashion.

Yours faithfully,  
D. M. CONNING,  
Director-General,  
The British Nutrition Foundation,  
15 Belgrave Square, SW1,  
May 29.

From Sir Francis Avery Jones

Sir, The controversy on food and health continues. For vitality, energy and enjoyable, illness-free living we need a generous intake of the "protective foods" in which the 13 vitamins, ten trace elements and two essential fatty acids together with other important nutrients are concentrated. These micro-nutrients serve as integral units in the thousands of chemical enzymes maintaining every activity in our body.

Day by day we need a basic core of fibre-rich whole foods: whole-grain cereals, green leafy vegetables, with yellow/red ones, salads and pulses being specially protective, fruits, nuts, oils from a choice of many vegetable seeds, some dairy products and preferably some fish and meat products.

With a wide variety, these will provide all the micro-nutrients to enable us to enjoy in moderation all our favourite flavoured foods, including butter, with no feelings of guilt and no threat to health, the only proviso being some modest exercise and watching one's weight and waistline.

The Ministry of Food promoted this regime for over ten years with a

remarkable improvement in the health of the nation. I helped to assess the success of this regime when serving on the BMA nutrition committee (1950).

The pundits ever since have assumed that the improvement was largely due to the simultaneous reduction in the intake of fat and sugar. They are wrong: it was the protective keystone nutrients maintaining our defence. So much recent scientific evidence is supporting this concept. Frankly, the saturated fat and cholesterol story is on the way out.

Yours faithfully,  
F. AVERY JONES,  
Mill House, Nurbourne,  
Pulborough, West Sussex,  
May 29.

From Professor Emeritus John Yudkin

Sir, Nutrition differs from all other sciences in that it has a strong social context; what people eat depends not only on the results of laboratory or clinical experiment, but also on what foods are available, what foods people like, and, in our highly civilised world, on the amount of promotion of particular products by their manufacturers.

A substantial number of nutritionists and other scientists are not at all convinced by the evidence of the role of dietary fat in heart disease, or by the evidence that dietary fibre can prevent obesity, intestinal disease such as bowel cancer and diverticular disease.

Heart disease is indeed associated with a high concentration of cholesterol, but association is in itself no proof. That appendicitis is accompanied by a high temperature is not the same as saying that a high temperature shows that you have appendicitis.

As in all experimental sciences, we still do not know everything about nutrition. Nevertheless, we can tell people: "Stop eating until we know all the facts."

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN YUDKIN,  
20 Wellington Court,  
Wellington Road,  
St John's Wood, NW8,  
May 30.

From Dr Eric Trimmer

Sir, Your main report on dietary theories is entitled "Why nutrition pundits must regularly eat their words".

Probably they have forgotten Walter de la Mare's excellent dietary aphorism: "It's a very odd thing/ As odd as can be/ That whatever Miss T eats/ Turns into Miss T."

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC TRIMMER,  
Yew Tree Lodge, Love Lane,  
Bembridge, Isle of Wight,  
May 28.

## Survival of fittest

From the Chief of Clan Elliot

Sir, Your report, "Claymore is buried for gathering of murderous clans" (May 25), depicts the Irving, Armstrong, Jardine, Elliot, Nixon and Johnstone families as historically an ill-disciplined collection of hoodlums and gangsters living in the Scottish Borders: a popular view but inaccurate.

The Elliots first appeared in 1320 when Robert the Bruce brought them to Liddesdale to defend the border against the English. The present borderline is proof of their success. Supporting their king, James IV of Scotland, at Flodden in 1513, they lost many of their finest men and the breakdown of secure and strong government in Scotland following this defeat led to the period

of turbulence in the Borders covered in your report.

The Crown's attempt to use the clans as pawns in the political manoeuvres between Scotland and England destroyed any trust or loyalty that existed and it was a question of survival of the fittest. Together with our neighbours, the Armstrongs, we were the fittest.

My name is Elliott [sic], not Wilkins as you report. My husband, Christopher Wilkins, has an interesting family history of his own and I appreciate the company of its product. I would not dream of imposing my name on his and so, I remain Yours,

MARGARET ELIOTT,  
Redhugh,  
Newcastle, Roxburghshire,  
May 26.

## View from back yard

From Mr Robert H. Parry

Sir, I doubt whether the writer of your editorial on the Castlemorton "invasion" ("New age of Nimby", May 27) would have written in such Olympian language had he been standing on the common beside his savagely ravaged sheep or spent sleepless nights behind locked doors listening to the sounds of 20,000 people "peacefully enjoying themselves" and of his windows being broken and his sheds being demolished.

There may be a time for sitting on the fence, but not when it is being torn down.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT H. PARRY,  
23 Queen's Drive,  
Malvern, Worcestershire,  
May 27.

From Mr H. Sutherland Pilch

Sir, Simon Jenkins, in "Bankrupt who built a city" (May 30), says: "For reasons that baffle geographers, most cities develop westwards." I am no geographer but have always understood the reason to be that in the days of coal fires one encountered clearer air by moving towards the prevailing westerly winds.

Yours faithfully,  
H. SUTHERLAND PILCH,  
Oakhouse Farm,  
Pulborough, West Sussex,  
June 1.

From Mr Cyril Bryan

Sir, Wouldn't Canary Wharf be the ideal base for the Thatcher Foundation?

Yours faithfully,  
CYRIL BRYAN,  
16 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

## Eye to main chance

From the Secretary-General, Institution of Plant Engineers

Sir, Frances Plowden is rightly to be congratulated on her receipt of a scholarship from the Royal Warrant Holders' Association to study at a smithy near Barcelona (report and photograph, May 28), but I was horrified to see her at work without any kind of eye protection.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER PRATT,  
Secretary-General,  
The Institution of Plant Engineers,  
77 Great Peter Street,  
Westminster, SW1,  
May 28.

## What's in a name?

From Mr Peter Glover

Sir, Do other readers share Peter Kimm's uncertainty of whether his wife is married to him or the airedale (letter, May 30)?

I have come to terms with second place to a springer spaniel yet I can seldom distinguish with any certainty whether my wife is talking to me or the dog, or if the appealing aroma wafting from the kitchen is a signal for me or him. A call of "Your dinner's ready, dear" confuses both of us.

Yours etc.,  
PETER GLOVER,  
White Croft,  
Reynoldston,  
Swansea, West Glamorgan,  
June 1.

Business letters, page 23

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.







OBITUARIES

GARTH PETTITT

Robin Garth Pettitt, former head of the UN and Commonwealth Development Administration (ODA), died in a road accident on May 29 aged 59. He was born on August 14, 1932.

GARTH Pettitt was a highly principled civil servant, whose professional work among people of the Third World was underpinned by his liberal sympathies for the deprived.

He was not a practising Christian but he gave moral and practical support to the Anglican priest, Father Bill Shergold, in his pastoral work among the biker fraternity of north London.

He was himself a motor cycling fanatic. Whitehall colleagues were accustomed to seeing him roaring to work on one of his three 1,000cc machines. He even rode to a reception at the Mansion House, changing there from his leathers into white tie and tails.

Yet he always said that he had first joined the Colonial Office because of his other great passion, ornithology. The prospect of free travel overseas offered previously undreamed-of facilities for bird watching. Throughout his subsequent colourful career he rarely travelled without his large binoculars, even when he was visiting the UN in Manhattan.

He was born at Norwich, the son of an artist, W. S. Pettitt, who exhibited his landscapes at the Royal Academy. After national service in the RAF, Garth Pettitt went to Selwyn College, Cambridge, to read history - from which he immediately switched to economics. He missed his first, it was said, because the examiner could not read his handwriting.

When he joined the colonial service in 1959 he envisaged a career slowly dismantling the old empire. But the speed of the process quickly overtook him. In 1960 he was in the Gibraltar and South Atlantic section of what had by then been rechristened the Commonwealth Office, dealing with the Falkland Islands among others. It then became the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and by 1967 he was a first secretary at the high commission in Nigeria.

SALVADOR NAVA

Salvador Nava Martinez, one of Mexico's most respected opposition leaders, died on May 18 aged 78. He was born on April 7, 1914.

A PROMINENT and outspoken fighter for social justice, Salvador Nava Martinez had been suffering from bladder cancer for two years, but had only recently retired.

Nava entered politics in 1959 as a candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has ruled Mexico since the 1930s, but in a characteristically bold move, he resigned from the party after opponents questioned the validity of PRI election victories.

Always the political rebel, Nava was accused in 1962 of plotting against the government and was jailed. The following year he was among 20 prisoners tortured for

their political views. Although he was twice elected mayor of his home town of San Luis Potosi, 215 miles northwest of the capital, in 1959 and 1983, he will be remembered for his 1991 campaign for the governorship when as candidate for the Potosino Civil Front, a broad-based coalition, he protested against what he called the "fraudulent" victory of the PRI candidate, Fausto Zapata, to Mexico City. Before the walkouts could reach the capital, however, Zapata resigned, making way for an interim governor.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari visited Nava shortly before his death, calling him a "fighter for democracy without violence". Nava is survived by his wife, Concepcion Calvillo, and six children.

Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company

Mr Mathew, widow of Francis Mathew, Manager of The Times from 1948 to 1965, presented the Francis Mathew Stationers' Company Scholarship to Miss Nicole Linton at a ceremony held yesterday at Stationers' Hall.

The Master, Mr W.C. Young, presented the first Stationers' Cup for Printing to Reed's School, Cobham, and the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company Cup for performance under training at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Lympstone, to Marines A. Moorehead and F. Harrison. The Royal Marines became the company's adopted Corps in 1949.

Textile Institute

Dr Salim Ibrahim, corporate Vice President of Du Pont de Nemours and Company, was named as the Textile Institute's 1991-92 President. Dr Ibrahim was the guest of honour at a dinner held at the University of Oxford. Other elected officers of the Institute's Council, its international governing body, were present.

Church news

The Rev John Patterson, Vicar, Walsby (Derby) to retire as from July 31.

KURT MAY



Kurt May, former director of the United Restitution Organisation which assisted victims of the Nazis, died in Frankfurt on May 26 aged 95. He was born in Meiningen on August 15, 1896.

FOR more than forty years Kurt May played a leading role in efforts to obtain compensation for Jews who had been plundered and oppressed by the Nazis.

He was involved in restitution work from its start in the difficult and uncertain period after the second world war. Returning to Germany from what was then still Palestine in 1948, he initially worked as head of the legal aid department that had been set up in the American Zone to help Nazi victims recover their confiscated properties.

He soon won an outstanding reputation in his field, and in 1955 he was appointed director of the United Restitution Organisation (URO), a post which he was to hold until 1988.

URO had been founded in 1948 by a group of German Jewish lawyers living in London. Its first chairman, Norman Bentwich, was a distinguished British jurist who had served as attorney-general in Mandate Palestine. It began on a fairly small scale, offering help to claimants who were unable to afford a private lawyer, but it eventually grew into a world-wide organisation, with headquarters in Frankfurt, branches in 19 different countries and (at its peak) a staff of more than a

thousand. In the course of its existence it has handled more than 500,000 separate claims on behalf of 300,000 claimants.

Those claims were concerned not only with property but also with suffering in concentration camps, loss of parents, ruined careers and broken health. They often involved intricate legal issues.

Most of May's work necessarily involved him in the fate of European Jews. But he was a man of broad humanity, keenly aware that Nazism had had many other victims. He was particularly concerned that gypsies should be compensated for the crimes that had been committed against them.

Born into an assimilated German-Jewish family, he

left for Palestine, settling in Jerusalem.

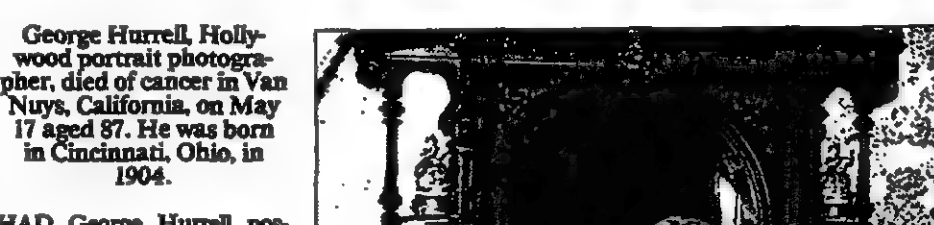
Unable to practise law in Palestine, he turned to a second trade. Together with his brother he opened and managed what was at the time the smartest and largest fashion store in the country. In 1936 he married. His wife, Vera, had studied jurisprudence in pre-Hitler Germany, and after the second world war she was to become a senior judge in the federal republic.

May was astonishingly energetic and efficient: he was still putting in a hard day's work in his late eighties. But energy and efficiency alone would not have been enough for him to have accomplished what he did. He was also a man of obvious candour and high principle, who commanded the instant respect of judges, civil servants and fellow-professionals. And, at the same time, no one could have been less of the heavy bureaucrat he was notably considerate and approachable in his dealings with clients and staff alike.

As a young man he had been strikingly handsome, and he retained his looks in old age, along with an uncomplicated sense of humour and much of the stamina that had once made him an outstanding tennis player. At the age of ninety he could still set out on an Alpine walk and leave companions half his age puffing and wheezing as they tried to keep up.

He is survived by his wife and by their daughter, Miriam, who is literary editor of The Sunday Telegraph.

GEORGE HURRELL



George Hurrell, Hollywood portrait photographer, died of cancer in Van Nuys, California, on May 17 aged 87. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1904.

HAD George Hurrell possessed sufficient funds to pay for sophisticated lighting equipment at the start of his career, the stars of Hollywood might have shone less brightly in their publicity photographs. When Hurrell set up shop in California at the age of 21 he was too poor to afford the sort of studio and technical apparatus considered essential by the leading photographers of the time. Instead, he was forced to experiment with natural light and to create a style which would draw out the character of his sitters rather than present them as the usual stereotypes.

He succeeded to such a degree that his photographs, far from being mere hand-outs for the studio press agents, became recognised as works of art in their own right. They are now exhibited in museums and art galleries all over the world, and command four-figure price tags.

Hurrell's technique, bringing his subjects into sharp focus, often making them pose without make-up, and using imaginative backgrounds, was crafted under the tuition of Edward Steichen. His first great breakthrough came in 1930, when he photographed Ramon Navarro, marionette idol of the silent screen. Navarro was so pleased with the results that he encouraged Norma Shearer to enlist Hurrell's services.

Shearer was having problems at the time. Her husband, Irving Thalberg, head of production at MGM, considered her insufficiently sexy to play the coveted lead role in his film The Divorcee - an attitude which threatened her career and cannot have done

much to help her marriage. Hurrell, however, could make a mannequin look sexy if he really tried, and only worked his magic. Thalberg saw the photographs and changed his mind. Shearer got the part and Hurrell was launched on a career which lasted almost until his death.

Until the outbreak of the second world war, when he joined the US Army and be-

came staff photographer for the Pentagon, Hurrell worked his magic with practically every major star in Hollywood. Some of his best work was done with Joan Crawford, with whom he had a creative relationship lasting many years.

On his return from the war, Hurrell was hired by Columbia and picked up where he had left off. Jane Russell owed

much of her success - and the publicity tag of "mean, moody and magnificent" - to his portrait of her lying on a haystack, taken to publicise her debut in Howard Hughes's The Outlaw in 1953. The halcyon days of Hollywood portraiture had faded by the mid-1970s, but Hurrell continued to appear on film sets as a freelance stills photographer.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Lynn Hurrell to be principal of the Royal Academy of Music from September 1993, in succession to Sir David Lumsden.

Legal

Master Miller, a Master of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, to be also the Admiralty Registrar, from August 1. He will succeed Master Topley, who continues as the Senior Master, Queen's Bench Division.

Mr Michael Lynn Cardigan to be a circuit judge, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit.

Mr Nigel Sweeney to be Senior Treasury Counsel to the Crown at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Maria Heslop to be First Junior Treasury Counsel to the Crown at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr John Kelsey-Fry to be Junior Treasury Counsel to the Crown at the Central Criminal Court.

Coopers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Coopers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr L. Jeagins; Upper Warden, Mr J.H. Mullenger; Under Warden, Mr R.M. Lebus.

DR LUTZ STAVENHAGEN



Dr Lutz Stavenhagen, German politician and co-ordinator of national intelligence services from 1989 to 1991, died on May 31 aged 52. He was born in Jena on May 6, 1940.

ONE of the most influential advisors of the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, on European policy before the Maastricht summit, Lutz Stavenhagen's promising political career was brought up short because of mistakes made by the country's intelligence services during the period he was in charge of co-ordinating their activities.

The son of a widely travelled chemist, Stavenhagen went to school in both Colombia and India and after national service in the Luftwaffe studied economics at Saarbrücken and Tübingen. He took his doctorate in 1968.

He started work in industry, but from 1964, when he joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), he had become increasingly involved in politics. He quickly became chairman of his local CDU branch in Pforzheim and in 1972 was elected to the Bundestag. He was immediately made a member of the budget committee and became research policy and later nuclear energy spokesman for his party. In 1983 he was chosen as leader of the CDU Baden-Württemberg group and this post became a springboard for a wider and more influential career.

In 1985 he was promoted into the government as a state secretary in the foreign ministry, which under Hans-Dietrich Genscher had become a fiefdom of the Free Democrats (FDP). There he acted as the eyes and ears of the CDU and became closely involved with European policy, sitting in at cabinet meetings. His influence was such that after the 1987 election the FDP insisted as one condition of remaining in the coalition that no CDU member should be appointed to the foreign ministry.

Stavenhagen was therefore transferred to the chancellery, where he masterminded the chancellor's rival European policy. This was not appreciated within the foreign ministry, where he was criticised for failing to prepare the chancellor properly for summit meetings.

However, Herr Kohl was pleased enough with his work by March 1989 to give him the additional responsibility of co-ordinating the internal and external intelligence services. This proved a poisoned chalice since in the end it led to his downfall. Confirmed after the first all-German elections in December 1992 as state secretary responsible for both European and intelligence service policy, Stavenhagen found himself dealing with two of the most difficult dossiers facing the government. The run in to the Maastricht summit saw Germany's position as central to the development of the Community. The web of intrigue left behind after unification was certain to prove difficult to negotiate.

In the end Germany obtained much less than the chancellor hoped at Maa-

tricht but, thanks in large part to the pragmatism urged by Stavenhagen, an agreement was possible. However, he was widely criticised over two initiatives made by the intelligence services. One was over the issue of a passport to Alexander Schalk-Goldowski, who ran East Germany's secret network of businesses in the west. Even more serious was the discovery that the intelligence services were shipping former East German armoured vehicles to Israel disguised as farm equipment.

Stavenhagen denied knowing anything about either case until after they were exposed, but in December of last year he resigned, accepting that as co-ordinator for the services he should have been abreast of everything that was happening. Since then he had been active again as a backbencher and his early death from pneumonia came as a surprise.

A descendant of Bernhard Stavenhagen, the composer and pianist, he leaves a widow, Christine, and two daughters, Viktoria and Franziska.

Geoffrey Axworthy

GEOFFREY Axworthy, first artistic director of Cardiff's Sherman Theatre, has died aged 67.

The theatre opened in 1973 with grave doubts from critics that it would be a success, but he proved them wrong.

Geoffrey Axworthy came to Cardiff in 1970 as director of drama at University College, and was later appointed to the position of head of the Sherman project.

LAST HOURS OF CRETE

With the AIF, June 2 The stories I have heard today from men of the Imperial Forces arriving in Egypt from Crete leave no doubt that the battle there was one of the bitterest and most courageous that British troops have ever fought. It is also clear that the Germans, who have suffered severe casualties, flung every ounce of their available strength into the endeavour to capture Crete. An Australian major told me:

"The German command is using not only trained, but also untrained, men in an effort to swamp the island with troops. We captured a 19-year-old glider pilot wandering in the mountains. He was armed with a tommy-gun, but was unable to use it against our troops because he did not know how to operate it. He had arrived piloting a glider holding 10 German soldiers. He told us that he had never been trained for war, and had been driving a taxi in Vienna three weeks earlier. One day he was told to report for duty, and was informed that his services were required because he was a skilled glider pilot."

"He was sent off to Athens and taken to an aerodrome, where he found 40 gliders on the ground. The attack on Crete began a few days later, and the pilot was sent out in a glider towed behind an aeroplane which was also carrying troops. He was told that there was no need to worry because the troops in his glider were all highly trained soldiers who would be able to protect him, as well as themselves, on landing. However they had a hot time

when they landed, and the pilot and wireless operator became separated from the troops. They had been wandering for two days when we found them. They were terrified at first because they had been told that the British take no prisoners."

Another senior officer, who was acting as a liaison officer and saw the results of fighting in a number of separate areas, told me that he considered that the lesson of Crete was that Germany could never capture Crete. Britain with parachutists and air-borne troops.

The Creans have won the admiration of every man who fought in the battle for Crete. They helped the Imperial troops in every possible way. An Australian private told me: "The women, as well as the men, were superb. Women who were doing our washing came right into the lines every day to deliver clean clothes and collect dirty stuff. The bibles did not seem to worry them. They would come up, taking shelter on the ground when aeroplanes were overhead and moving on when the coast was clear. British and Australian officers, who were patients in the hospital at Cnosos when it was captured by the Germans, were able to escape back to the Australian lines at Heraklion under the noses of the Germans."

The real hero of this exploit was a 20-year-old Greek soldier, who brought a note for the captive officers from an Australian company commander. The Greek took his life in his hands to deliver the note. He put on civilian clothes, warned his way through the German lines to the hospital. The officers slipped out and walked through the olive groves behind. Then they had to walk along a road in view of 12 German machine-gun positions for a distance of 1,000 yards. The Germans must have seen them but evidently took them for civilians and did not fire. The officers reached the Australian lines in time to leave with the battalion, which travelled to Egypt in destroyers.

ON THIS DAY 1941

The battle for Crete lasted a fortnight. More than 17,000 Allied troops were evacuated from the island, but at the cost of three cruisers and six destroyers.







# BUSINESS TIMES

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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## Cash boost to offer for Midland

# HK Bank aims for knockout with £3.9bn bid

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HONGKONG and Shanghai Banking Corporation yesterday delivered an increased £3.9 billion final bid for Midland Bank, intended as a knockout blow to win within three weeks. HSBC lifted its offer to 471p a share and introduced a key 65p-a-share cash element.

In reply, Lloyds Bank called an emergency board meeting on Friday when it is expected to lift its own conditional offer to as much as 540p a share.

The increased bid from HSBC Holdings, the holding company of Hongkong Bank, is 120 shares and £65 in bonds or cash for every 100 shares in Midland. The bank has also underwritten the bonds to allow shareholders to receive cash. The value of

the bid increased to 480p as Hongkong Bank's shares rose on the local stock market. This compares with a previous value of 457p while Lloyds' conditional offer, referred to the monopolies commission two weeks ago, is worth 462p.

HSBC has used its strong share price, which has risen by HK\$8 (57p) since the bid began, to enhance its terms. The previous offer was 118 shares and £50 in bonds for every 100 shares.

Hongkong Bank has also moved the deadline of the bid forward after pressure from Midland. The new closing date for the offer is June 25, although the bank can still fall back on the original July 7 final closing date. The bank stressed this is a final offer, more than three weeks earlier than the deadline for final offers under takeover panel

## O&Y office staff made redundant

BY ANGELA MACKAY AND PHILIP ROBINSON

ERNST & Young, administrator of Olympia & York Canary Wharf, has dismissed almost one quarter of the company's office staff in the first round of belt tightening since being appointed last Thursday.

The administrator said further redundancies — in addition to the 44 announced — will be made as some of the group's activities are completed. Ernst & Young said that the 218 employees involved in estate management would be left largely untouched. The existing services to tenants must be maintained otherwise the administrator would be in breach of its landlord's covenants.

The administrator had been scheduled to discuss possible government support with cabinet representatives, however the meeting appears to have been postponed. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, announced in the Commons that about 2,000 civil servants would move to Docklands, subject to successful negotiations because "exceptional value for money may now be secured in Docklands" but did not specify

that the staff would be moving to Canary Wharf.

Tenants and their representatives will start meeting the administrator today to discuss which of the incentives offered by O&Y will be maintained.

A spokesman for Hanson, the international conglomerate interested in considering an offer for Canary Wharf, said the company had asked the administrator for information.

Meanwhile, a leading Swedish bank could force Olympia & York Developments into seeking bankruptcy protection for its \$4.5 billion American operations that have so far escaped being placed under the jurisdiction of a court.

Svenska Handelsbanken has filed court papers demanding early repayment of an unsecured credit line of between \$10 million and \$15 million that falls due next January, but is now technically in default.

O&Y says it will fight the legal action. However, analysts say if the bank wins in court, the move could force O&Y to file for American bankruptcy protection.

Comment, page 23

## Workers to buy slice of Exco

BY JONATHAN FRYNN

SDTY per cent of Exco International, a British and Commonwealth subsidiary and one of the world's largest money brokers, will be sold to institutions and employees.

The announcement came nearly two years to the day after British & Commonwealth went into administration. Exco was bought by British & Commonwealth for £673 million in 1986.

Yesterday's deal, which values Exco at £75 million, involved a placing of 45 per cent of the shares with five institutions led by Caledonia Investments. Caledonia has

bought a 27.3 per cent stake for £20.5 million. It was formerly the biggest shareholder in B & C but sold out in 1987.

The other institutions include Fleming Investment Management and Garmore Investment. Employees have bought shares and share options that could give them a 15 per cent holding.

The transaction, arranged by NM Rothschild, is unusual because the administrators have retained a 40 per cent stake in Exco. Stephen Adamson, one of the joint administrators and a partner in Ernst & Young, said: "I

believe that we have provided a creative solution to the administration of Exco's parent company with an unusually beneficial result: a tangible return now and a substantial holding in a business whose management has every incentive to succeed."

Richard Lacy, group chief executive of Exco, said: "From an operating point of view, it is far better that a company in administration has only a 40 per cent stake rather than 100 per cent." Exco's pre-tax profits for the year to end-December were £18.5 million (£25 million).

## Court freezes accountant's assets

BY PAUL WILKINSON

LAWYERS acting for Ernst & Young, the City accountancy firm, have obtained a High Court order freezing up to £2 million of the personal assets of one of its investment managers. Enquiries are continuing into the possible disappearance of clients' funds.

Fraud squad detectives are waiting to question the manager in a private clinic in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. He has been a patient there since shortly after the enquiry began last month.

John Pinder, managing partner at Ernst & Young's Leeds office, confirmed yesterday that the investigation centred on the activities of a senior manager at a West Yorkshire branch. He declined to

name the man, or to say whether he was still employed by Ernst & Young.

An internal enquiry was launched last month by senior staff at the firm after a formal complaint over the management of a client's investment portfolio. Mr Pinder said the freezing order was obtained on May 22 on the advice of Ernst & Young's lawyers, Clifford Chance, the London firm.

The figure of £2 million did not represent an amount of missing cash but had been decided on as a "precautionary" measure.

The enquiry was at an early stage and how much, if any, money was missing had not yet been determined. The

amount involved in the order would be "more than adequate" to cover any client's capital that might be at risk. There was no suggestion that the alleged irregularities had taken place over an extended period.

The order, obtained at a private chambers hearing, also required that the employee should hand over certain documents relating to the investments. Similar instructions were also directed to a number of other individuals and several companies.

Officers from the West Yorkshire Police fraud squad had been called in, but are awaiting the results of the internal investigation.



Sense of duty: Mr Watts says Thames must maintain supplies to the public

## Thames chiefs' pay falls 10%

THE pay of Roy Watts, chairman of Thames Water, fell from £160,000 to £145,000 in the year to end-March, because senior managers did not reach the threshold for bonuses set by non-executive directors, leaving executive directors' pay down nearly 10 per cent. (Graham Seargeant writes.)

The target for growth in earnings per share was not met because of a 4 per cent cut in metered supplies due to the recession, which affected profits.

Thames raised pre-tax profit 11 per cent to £236 million and increased its dividend 10.3 per cent to 19.2p from earnings up 9.4 per cent to 54.8p per share. Thames shares dipped 1p to 444p.

Capital spending on the utility business reached £395 million and is likely to stay near that level for the rest of the decade. The London ring main is six months ahead of schedule and Mike Hoffman, the chief executive, hopes it will be finished a year ahead of target. The group's new customer service centre at Swindon should also be opened ahead of schedule and at below budget cost.

Mr Watts said Thames saw its duty as maintaining customer supplies and therefore hoped to avoid hosepipe bans this summer despite lack of rain. If shortages occurred, Thames would ask for voluntary restraint.

A programme to speed up detection of leaks has helped to reduce the rate of leakage from 25 per cent before privatisation to 18 per cent. Mr Hoffman said the leakage rate had fallen a point in the past nine months that saved potential investment costs of £60 million. Abstraction from the threatened River Darent

has been cut to 70 per cent of that permitted by Thames' licence.

Mr Watts said managers of utilities must expect to live with criticism and had a duty to be answerable to the public. "A monopoly with a regulator is harder to manage both internally and externally," he said. "Mike Hoffman and I would prefer to be operating in competitive business but you cannot introduce

much effective competition into this industry."

Thames increased the number of executive share options for directors and others by between 10 per cent and 20 per cent during the year at market prices per share of 350p to 360p. The increases top up permitted levels of options to account for salary rises.

Comment, page 23

## Bankers to consider Macmillan flotation

BY ANGELA MACKAY

THE administrators of Maxwell Communication Corporation are finalising proposals to put before bank creditors in two weeks, when both parties are likely to opt for a flotation of Macmillan and Official Airline Guides, the collapsed group's biggest assets in America.

Mark Homan, one of the administrators from Price Waterhouse, has flown to New York to consult JP Morgan, the Wall Street investment bank advising the administrators. They are putting the final touches on the proposals, which will offer banks an equity stake in a new company in return for part of their debt.

One of the last matters to be settled is the tax implications of such a deal, though this is expected to be finalised by the meeting of creditors on June 18. A flotation of Macmillan and OAG was always considered possible because it appeared that these businesses, which were bought in 1989 for almost \$3 billion, were ring-fenced from the rest of the group.

The administrators were faced with several alternatives ranging from piecemeal disposal, sale of the assets as a whole, retaining them pending an upturn in the American economy, reorganising the group as a new entity, providing new shares to creditors in lieu of debt or a combination of these.

The administrators are known to want to remove the uncertainty hanging over MCC's two healthy businesses.

At a meeting of creditors last month, Mr Homan said he was considering legal action against past and present directors of MCC. If he presses ahead, these writs are also likely to be issued by June 18.

Price Waterhouse has told creditors that MCC's liabilities exceed assets by £763 million and that the ultimate figure is likely to be even higher, suggesting creditors will receive even less than half their claims. So far, disposals have raised only £75 million compared with gross liabilities of £1.5 billion.

Pensioners' plea, page 2

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# TSB bids to bring Jersey firm back into the fold

**By NEIL BENNETT**  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TSB Group has launched a \$6.7 million bid for the 49.9 per cent of TSB Channel Islands it does not already own. The bank said the merger would enable it to offer a broader range of offshore deposit and investment products and merge the offshore businesses of Hill Samuel, its merchant banking arm.

TSB is offering 250p a share in cash for the bank, which values it at £75 million. There is a part-paper alternative of seven TSB Group shares and 13p in cash for every four shares in TSBGI, worth 259p a share at yesterday's stock market prices.

The bid comes a year after the Jersey bank revealed that the police were investigating irregularities in its foreign exchange department. A dealer who has since left the bank exceeded his dealing limits to conceal losses.

The bank was forced to take a £5.79 million provision to cover the position, which pushed it into a loss of £3,000 in the half year to April 1991.

Yesterday, TSBCI reported a recovery in first-half profits of £4.77 million. The bank said the figures were satisfactory, although the recession in Britain had reduced growth in retail deposits and demand for loans.

Don McCrickard, TSB's chief executive, said the merger would enable the

**Leading a push for unity:** Don McCrickard, the bank group's chief executive

group to rationalise its offshore businesses. "The opportunity to get the business totally integrated is great because we can enhance the business flows," he said.

TSBCI was given a separate quote in 1986, when the main TSB Group came to the market. The bank was hived off to solve local shareholders' tax difficulties. TSB Group promised never to open in competition with the bank in the Channel Islands. This

agreement was tested a year later, when TSB bought Hill Samuel, which had a Channel Islands subsidiary. TSB was forced to sell Hill Samuel Bank (Jersey) to TSBGI, although it retained Hill Samuel's investment service business in the Channel Islands.

When the bid is completed, TSB will reunite the two halves of Hill Samuel in Jersey as part of its plan to create a full private banking business.

ness with Hill Samuel. TSBCI will continue to offer offshore banking and treasury services within the group.

Shares in TSBCI soared by 93p to 246p after the surprise announcement of the bid yesterday. Some commentators criticised the bid as too high but Mr McCrickard said it put the shares on a p/e ratio of only eight after discounting the cost of the foreign exchange losses.

**BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

**BY PHILIP PANGALOS**  
ADVERTISING revenue for Merro Radio Group rose 16.5 per cent in the first half but the USM-quoted commercial radio group, which is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, suffered a slight dip in pre-tax profit.

The figure slipped from £709,000 to £670,000 in the six months to end-March. Heavy capital expenditure and an increase in net interest payable to £145,000 (£73,000) took their toll.

Gearing rose to about 150 per cent at the interim stage against 100 per cent at the last year-end. John Joseph, finance director, said that the group's capital expenditure programme is complete and "strong cash-flow" is expected in the second half.

Much of the investment has been at the Yorkshire stations, where advertising revenue bucked the trend with a 43 per cent advance. Although aggregate total revenue at Metro and TFM fell

Mr Josephs said there are some tentative signs of a upturn. "With a little bit of help from the economy, we will really start to motor," he added. Eric Lawrence has been appointed to the board and will eventually take over as finance director, replacing Mr Josephs, who will become chief executive when Neil Robinson, the chairman and chief executive, retires at the end of the year.

Earnings fell to 2.64 (3.05p) a share. The interim dividend stays at 1.5p. The share lost 18p to 196p.

## British Bio-tech plans offer to raise £30m

**BRITISH** Bio-technology, a drug research company based in Oxford, proposes to raise at least £30 million through a international share offer next month. The company said shares would be priced at between 400p and 450p, valuing the company at £152 million at mid-point. The final prospectus will be published in early July.

Shares will be traded in London and New York. Kleinwort Benson is lead manager of the UK and international tranche of the offer, with Morgan Stanley lead manager in America. Up to 10 per cent of the US shares will be reserved for allocation to members of the London Stock Exchange. British Bio-technology is raising money to fund its drug programme, which includes an AIDS vaccine and an anti-cancer drug.

## HunterPrint cuts loss

**HUNTERPRINT**, the ailing magazine printer under new management chaired by Sir Ian MacGregor, has reduced operating losses by £2 million in the six months to end-March. Operating losses fell to £2.3 million (£4.3 million loss), reflecting increased sales and margins. Pre-tax losses were £3.8 million (£4.7 million loss). Sir Ian said that the company's advanced printing plant in Corby had increased efficiency 65 per cent in the last 15 months. There is once again no interim dividend.

## BCCI compensation

**TOUCHE** Ross, liquidator of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, has clarified terms of a proposed scheme to compensate creditors. A dividend of between 30 and 40 per cent would be paid, funded by a contribution from the Abu Dhabi government and asset sales. The liquidator said creditors should not be misled by reports that Abu Dhabi alone would cover the dividend. A High Court hearing on Monday will try to resolve differences between creditors, shareholders and the liquidators.

## Doubts hit Eurocopy

**EUROCOPY**, the photocopier supplier that was the subject of allegations over the selling practices of some subsidiaries, said it had been affected by uncertainty about the company during an Office of Fair Trading investigation and the recession. The enquiry ended in January when the OFT said it would not revoke any of Eurocopy's 18 consumer credit licences. Interim pre-tax profits for the half year ended March were £720,000 (£3.7 million) and earnings per share 1p (5.01p). The interim dividend is held at 1 p.

**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

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**Ombudsmen  
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# Ombudsman urges stronger warnings on risk to investors

BY SARA MCCONNELL

RISK warnings on investments should be more prominent and clearly worded with the existing phrase "Investments can go down as well as up" abandoned as "a matter of urgency", Richard Youard, the investment ombudsman, said yesterday in his annual report.

Mr Youard said many investors read the warning but did not understand it in relation to the investment they were buying. Experienced investors were often overwhelmed with information from advisers or marketing material about the potential for capital growth in invest-

ments and did not attach enough significance to the warning.

He said: "What in my view is required as a matter of urgency is the abandonment of the present warning and its substitution in a prominent form by such words as 'you may get back less than you invested'."

The number of cases dealt with by the investment ombudsman fell last year, against expectations from his office, with only 67 cases being sent to Mr Youard by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) compared with 89 in the year to March 1991.

The ombudsman's case load is about one tenth of the total number of complaints received about investment advisers and companies by Imro because the majority do not have to be referred to the ombudsman.

Mr Youard said of the fall in cases: "Whether this is a reflection of better responsiveness on the part of the securities industry or a symptom of the recession with greater investor reliance on 'safe investments' is difficult to say."

The ombudsman found in favour of the complainant in about half the cases. The largest amount paid as a result of settlement tripled from £8,715 to £25,031 because one complainant was settled in favour of a large investor.

The total paid out by the scheme was £114,272. The amounts claimed ranged from £100 to £127,644 but the smallest amount paid out was £25.

Imro is considering whether to change its rules to bring trustees of unit trusts within the ombudsman's jurisdiction but has not made a decision. It turned down a previous request from Mr Youard, who has been pressing for the expansion of his role since last year.

He said: "I have had cases where, although the unit trust

manager was to blame, there also appeared to be a failure by the trustee to carry out its legal duties. Where the manager is insolvent I might be able to produce justice by going after the trustee." Mr Youard is not seeking to bring pension fund trustees within his scope.

Creditors yesterday appointed Neil Cooper and Nigel Ruddock, of Robson Rhodes, the chartered accountants, as joint liquidators of Bob Gordon Financial Services, of Kent, and Oxford Financial Services, of Surrey. The companies had been under investigation by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

It is believed the companies were running an unregulated collective investment scheme. A spokesman for the liquidators said it appeared that 40 investors were missing up to £1 million. Money invested in the companies' scheme is believed to have been used to fund bridging loans.

Oxford Financial Services was suspended last Friday by the financial intermediaries, managers and brokers regulatory association (Fimbra). The Association said Oxford had been operating an unregulated collective investment scheme while not authorised to do so and has mismanaged clients' money. Bob Gordon Financial Services was not a member of Fimbra, the liquidator said.

Mr Ruddock said: "We have only just begun our investigation but we are clearly facing a highly complicated financial situation. Some of the creditors may be covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme but we do not know how many."

"We have started work to track down where the assets are and exactly how much they are worth."

There will be a creditors' meeting on June 15, at a venue to be announced and notices will be circulated to all known creditors.



Potent chemistry despite recession: Peter Fleisher, managing director

## Allied Colloids distils payout rise

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

ALLIED Colloids, which makes water treatment chemicals for the paper, pollution control and mining industries, is raising its dividend after an 8.3 per cent advance in pre-tax profit.

Earnings climbed from £38.9 million to £42.1 million in the year to March 31, helped by lower raw material prices and better production performance. Relatively flat second-half sales meant that turnover climbed only 9.3 per cent, to £254.5 million. About 84 per cent of the total was

overseas. Recession held back performance and Allied's hopes of boosting business with Yugoslavia and the former Soviet republics were dashed by the "very disturbed situations" in those areas.

The group, headed by Peter Fleisher, managing director, reported that paper and mining worldwide were depressed, giving little scope for price increases. Cuts were necessary in some areas because of competition.

Gordon Senior, finance director, said lower raw material

prices had been offset by adverse exchange rate movements. Capital expenditure, at £16.9 million, continued at a high level; most of it was to improve plant and increase output. Hydrolabs, an American company that makes speciality chemicals for the textile industry, was acquired last December for \$18 million. It made a marginal contribution.

The dividend is raised to 3.9p (3.5p) for the year, with a proposed final payout of 3.02p (2.70p).

## Pathology group founder sells out

BY MICHAEL TATE

JEAN Shanks, who founded Britain's only quoted independent pathology company, JS Pathology (JSP), is selling out for £12 million cash. The buyer is Corning, a \$6.8 billion American combine, which is bidding £23.1 million for the entire share capital of JSP.

Dr Shanks, the company's chairman, has agreed to accept Corning's cash offer of 175p a share in respect of her 52.2 per cent shareholding, and is recommending other shareholders to follow suit.

Corning, a New York group with wide-ranging manufacturing interests in the chemical and scientific fields, moved into laboratory testing services in 1982, when it bought MetPath. It sold MetPath's UK operation to JSP for £4.6 million in 1986, but is keen to expand into the highly fragmented European market, and sees JSP as the ideal platform. Conceived by Dr

Shanks in 1958, JSP, which offers clinical pathology services to consultants, arrived on the Unlisted Securities Market in 1985 through a placing at 160p a share. At one point in 1987 Dr Shanks's stake was valued at £47 million, with the shares at 685p.

Before the announcement that discussions were taking place, the shares were languishing at a little above 100p. Results disclosed yesterday show that for the year to end-March, pre-tax profits more than halved from £2.66 million to £1.25 million on a marginally increased turnover of £11.5 million.

Clinical laboratory testing is a \$30 billion market in America, where Corning claims the second-largest operation. It promises that JSP will "continue to operate as an autonomous business under its own management", with Dr Shanks remaining as chairman and chief executive.

## BHP moves to take control of Foster's

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

BHP, Australia's biggest company, has taken effective control of Foster's Brewing, which owns the Courage operation in Britain. It did so by forcing John Elliott's International Brewing Investments into receivership.

BHP called in an A\$1 billion (£414 million) debt owed by Mr Elliott's International Brewing Holdings and appointed a receiver to IBH, the main operating arm that holds a 32 per cent controlling stake in Foster's.

Another IBH subsidiary still holds a 6 per cent stake in the international brewer, which also has operations in North America. BHP is negotiating with IBH's main lending syndicate to acquire its A\$1.2 billion debt to give BHP first security over the 32 per cent stake. The move may lead to Mr Elliott and other IBH representatives leaving the Foster's board and being replaced by a BHP team. Mr

Elliott, who was overseas, is expected to decide by the end of the week whether to make a legal challenge to the receiver's appointment.

BHP's move appears to have been precipitated by the proposed merger between Foster's and SA Brewing. But the BHP action is not seen as a direct threat to the merger itself. John Prescott, BHP's managing director, said that some aspects of the merger proposal had "merit".

Mr Prescott said his group was not prepared to allow a "fire sale" of Foster's shares and, if necessary, BHP would buy IBH's Foster's shares from the receivers and wait until the share price improved in the hope of recovering its A\$1 billion.

A spokesman for Courage said the move had no direct implications for the British brewing operation except in that the business was owned by Foster's.

## Reserves boosted by \$77m

The strength of the pound, despite a half-point cut in base rates early in the month, allowed Britain's official gold and currency reserves to swell by an undervalued \$77 million in May, Bank of England figures showed yesterday.

Economists expect total reserves, already at an historically high level of \$45.8 billion at the end of last month, to continue to grow in the months ahead.

In America, the closely watched leading indicators showed a 0.4 per cent rise in April, following an upward revised rise of the same order in March, reinforcing the picture of modest recovery.

## Del Monte up

The sale of a South African subsidiary, reaping £6.45 million net, helped boost pre-tax profits at Del Monte Foods International (DMFI), the European processed food business, by 45 per cent to £24.7 million in the year ended November 29, 1991. The company is floating on the London Stock Exchange within the next nine months.

## Payout pegged

High Gosforth Park, the racecourse and golf course owner, is maintaining its dividend at 15p a share, despite a pre-tax loss of £46,200 in the year to end-December, compared with a profit of £37,460 last time. Turnover slipped to £1.04 million (£1.1 million). There is an 83p deficit per share (earnings of 31.1p).

## Perpetual leap

Perpetual, the manager of United Kingdom and offshore unit trusts, is raising its interim dividend to 1.2p a share, against 0.8p, after first-half profits more than doubled to £2.18 million in the six months to end-March, against £903,000. Turnover surged to £121.3 million (£60.3 million). Earnings rose to 6.14p a share (2.37p).

## Helene raises cash

Helene, the London fashion wear company, is to raise £4.58 million through a placing and open offer, to provide additional working capital to finance an increase in turnover. The company said that sales in the first four months of the year were well up on the same period in 1991. The 24 million shares are offered at 20.5p on a one-for-three basis, against a market price yesterday of 22.5p.

## New nations give De La Rue a boost

BY MICHAEL TATE

DEMAND for new banknotes and passports from the new nations of eastern Europe swelled turnover within De La Rue's security printing division last year, and helped the group check in with a 29.4 per cent pre-tax profit increase, from £58.9 million to £76.2 million in the year to March 31.

Eastern European orders added 10 per cent to banknote turnover, while the drive by Jeremy Marshall, chief executive, on cost containment lifted profit margins for the entire division from 14.9 to 19.1 per cent.



Marshall: cost-cutter

Shareholders collect a final dividend of 11.5p, giving them 15p for the year, against 13.75p previously, and in line with last year's rights issue forecast. It is twice covered by earnings, which rose by 17.7 per cent to 30.6p.

Inter Innovation, the Swedish payments systems business acquired for £94.7 million last autumn, contributed £2.3 million in respect of its four months within the group, and promises much more. As the dominant UK player in automated telling machines, described by Mr Marshall as "an embryonic market", it hopes to benefit from the expected trend towards open-hall banking in Britain.

It helped lift the payments systems division's profits by 41.2 per cent to £23.3 million. The division also benefited from a particularly strong performance at Garny, its 93 per cent-owned German business.

De La Rue, which raised £160.6 million at the time of the acquisition through a rights issue, ended the year with net cash of £111.5 million.

## Devenish expects new bid

BY MARTIN WALLER

JA DEVENISH, the West Country pubs operator, is expecting a renewed hostile bid from Boddington Group, which a year ago narrowly failed to take control and still holds almost 20 per cent, when the pubs and hotels group is allowed to return to the fray on June 18.

"We have to be on our guard," said John Clark, the Devenish deputy chairman and chief executive.

Devenish announced pre-tax profits of £4.24 million in the six months to end-March, ahead from £2.09 million last time because of the decision to withdraw from the loss-making brewing operation and concentrate on pubs. The half-way dividend is raised from 1.2p to 1.5p.

Boddington returned to the attack. Denis Cassidy, chairman, said: "As Devenish is now a pub retailing business, both the company's management and shareholders must be disappointed that pub operating profits are lower than at the same stage last year and show no growth from the interim level of 1990."

## Japanese lesson for the French

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THROUGHOUT the world, it is a custom to mock one's own country, yet spring energetically to its defence in the face of foreign criticism. The French, after centuries of intermittent combat with Britain, are especially sensitive to sniping from across the channel.

Yet Walter Eltis, chairman of Britain's National Economic Development Council, is preparing to throw caution to the winds. In a speech at L'Institut de l'Entreprise, the French business research body, in Paris, he will today lecture his audience on the blessings of Japanese competition.

Despite the departure from office two months ago of France's arch Japan-basher, Edith Cresson, the former prime minister, this is a subject on which many French people retain a deep ambivalence. Admiration of Japanese consumer products is tinged with frustration at the failure of French national champions, from Thomson in electronics to Renault in cars, to match the success of the all-conquering Japanese.

Dr Eltis, in his direct, donnish way, will present an analysis many in his audience will find uncomfortable. The Japanese should be welcomed with open arms, he

has concluded. Any other strategy betrays both European consumers and the prospects of European industry. Japan has an undoubted competitive edge in some products, Dr Eltis believes. Yet if Japanese access to the European market were restricted, competing European production would become unfeasible elsewhere in the world. "West Europeans would sell inferior cars, consumer electronics and computers to each other while the rest of the world bought from superior product ranges."

"All the industries that used these [inferior products] would suffer, with the result that a further swathe of European industry would become uncompetitive". As a result, "more and more industries would require protection".

Dr Eltis also dismissed the use of subsidies to help European companies compete with Japanese rivals. British efforts to do this through nationalisation and state-sponsored restructuring during the 1970s had frequently been a disaster, he said. Subsidies for research and development were also of dubious benefit.

Britain had more recently welcomed the Japanese with open arms. As a result,

the UK had become the most popular destination for Japanese investment in Europe, and the efficiency of much of British industry had been transformed.

"If companies are already efficient, they have nothing to fear from Japanese competition. If they are not, they should hasten to get the Japanese into their countries to demonstrate what needs to be done at first hand," Dr Eltis believes. "Japanese entry into a small percentage of manufacturing can act as the catalyst that transforms whole industries."

Quite how French managers will respond to that suggestion remains to be seen. The success of many Japanese concerns already established in France seems to suggest that the real resistance lies, not among shopfloor workers and the consumer, but among bureaucrats and managers.

The new administration of Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, has already eschewed public antagonism toward the Japanese. A call for a more public display of welcome is not out of tune with the times. But coming from a Briton, it may prove hard to swallow.

Passport to France. L&T section

## A year of solid progress

Preliminary Results for the year ended 31st March 1992

Turnover up 8% to £899m

Profit before tax up 11% to £236m

Earnings per share up 9% to 54.8p

Dividend per share up 10% to 19.2p

Business Group's Preliminary Announcement

Results continue to be good. The last financial year was the best year. Thames Water Utilities performed well in a very competitive environment. The business is in profit, and the Group has expanded its water and sewerage services.

As before, this has been achieved through a combination of service and a massive capital investment programme, whilst maintaining the lowest combined water bills in England and Wales.

I believe once again these results achieve the right balance between the interests of our shareholders, our customers, our employees and the environment.

We have delivered, as promised, and we will continue to do so.

Roy Watts  
Chairman



Thames Water Plc, 14 Cavendish Place, London W1P 0SA

The annual report will be posted to Shareholders of record by 15th June 1992.



## Dow edges higher

18. Michael Cannon, the Devenish chairman, has pledged the inevitable bloody fight if Boddington renews the assault, while using the example of the

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**Boddington** still sits on a lower at £5.85 million, but

ended March, against £28.9 million, surprised the entire market, and dissipated fears that the 1992 final dividend

ended March, against £28.9 million, surprised the entire market, and dissipated fears that the 1992 final dividend

still looks attractive, and the shares, on 13.2 times prospective earnings, should be held.

General	5%	5%	General	5%	5%	Random	5%	5%
Armstrong World	34%	34%	Gilbert ADR	54%	54%	Random Corp	10%	10%
Corso	20%	20%	Goldrich (B)	54%	54%	Random Corp	10%	10%
Midland Oil	31%	31%	Goldrich (T)	54%	54%	Random Corp	10%	10%
ICI Chemicals	116	116	Goldrich (W)	54%	54%	Random Corp	10%	10%
Auto Data Pro	45%	45%	Goldrich (X)	54%	54%	Random Corp	10%	10%

decision time  
stand hole

## STOCK MARKET

A nervous US bond market left Government securities contemplating losses of 1½ at the longer end.

Midland Bank jumped 31p to 452p on learning of the increased terms from Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank valuing the entire group at £3.9 billion. HSBC has introduced a cash element into the terms, which are 120 new shares and 665 in bonds for every 100 shares in Midland. This tops the £3.8 billion terms being offered by rival Lloyds Bank, whose bid has been frozen after being referred to the

\_\_\_\_\_

Tarmac spent a nervous day, losing 6p at 128p after

M & G Recovery Pkg Un	122	...
Mutuals Warrant	11	...
Rosebys (115)	145	...
Templeton Eng Mias C (100)	104	...
Welpac (RFDI)	26	...
<b>RIGHTS ISSUES</b>		
BICC N/P (285)	62	+8
Concentric N/P (285)	70	...
Eadie Sp N/P (14)	14	...
Europa Minerals 2p N/P (5)	1	...
Fulcrum Inv Trak Inc N/P (57)	1	...
Ingaham N/P (95)	5	...

Pittencroft 10p N/P 11909	43	...
Transfer Technology N/P 14004	88-15	

RISERS:		FALLS:	
General Accident	479p (+11p)	Uster TV	212p (+15p)
Commercial Union	498p (+10p)	FALLS:	
Swiss Corp	628p (+5p)	Eurotunnel Units	358p (-11p)
Leasecon	877p (+11p)	De La Rue	525p (-12p)
Global Data Process	545p (+8p)	Unicore	309p (-10p)
Chemicals Chem	472p (+2p)	Standard Chartered	481p (-7p)
ADT	460p (+20p)	Tibury Douglas	675p (-10p)
Imperial Ind	335p (-10p)	Polysar	413p (-10p)
St Pathology	170p (-15p)	Somethy	613p (-22p)
		Sony-Epson	323p (-10p)

**Closing Prices..Page 26**

MONEY MARKETS					
Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 92.7 (day's rise 92.5-92.7).					
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
Lib Rate for June 2	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
American	3.2979-3.3046	3.3005-3.3036	4 1/8-ppr	4 1/8-ppr	
Canada	60.20-60.41	60.26-60.40	5 1/8-ppr	10 1/8-ppr	
Europe	11.2500-11.2611	11.2500-11.2611	5 1/8-ppr	10 1/8-ppr	
Japan	1.0520-1.0575	1.0565-1.0573	4 1/8-ppr	6 1/8-ppr	
London	2.9282-2.9343	2.9314-2.9343	4 1/8-ppr	6 1/8-ppr	
Frankfurt	241.68-243.19	242.00-243.01	11 1/2-ppr	301-306 1/2	
Geneva	152.55-152.87	152.50-152.54	35-42 1/2	103-115 1/2	
Paris	2205.55-2211.05	2207.15-2209.85	1 1/4-1 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
London	1.1822-1.1856	1.1934-1.1956	0.76-0.77	1 1/4-1 1/2	
New York	1.8129-1.8237	1.8230-1.8237	0.96-0.95 1/2	2.70-2.66 1/2	
Chicago	1.8129-1.8237	1.8230-1.8237	0.96-0.95 1/2	2.70-2.66 1/2	
Frankfurt	9.8301-9.8607	9.8301-9.8607	1 1/4-1 1/2	1 1/4-1 1/2	
London	10.5415-10.5721	10.5497-10.5825	1 1/4-1 1/2	2 1/4-3 1/2	
Paris	20.60-20.65	20.63-20.65	1 1/4-1 1/2	2 1/4-3 1/2	
Geneva	20.60-20.65	20.63-20.65	1 1/4-1 1/2	2 1/4-3 1/2	
Frankfurt	2.6525-2.6706	2.6525-2.6581	1 1/4-1 1/2	2 1/4-3 1/2	
Source: Eder					

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Making a sp

THE TIMES

Chas. J. Smith



## COMMENT

## Decision time for Midland holders

After years of suffering, Midland shareholders must be feeling better. William Purves, chairman of Hongkong Bank, has reluctantly reached into his coffers and increased his offer by £300 million. He is likely to be followed in short order by Brian Pitman, Lloyds' chief executive, who should make a conditional offer of well over £5 a share. Hongkong's offer, at a premium of 70 per cent over book value, is generous. After the bidding war closes it is time for the shareholders to make their minds up. The attractions of waiting for Lloyds are strong: the bank's conditional offer could be 60p higher than Hongkong's bid.

Midland's owners, however, should think carefully before rejecting a bid in the hand. Even if, and it is a big if, Lloyds is waved through by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, they will have to wait until November at the earliest before they receive their money. The cost of that time is about 15p a share. Then there is the uncertainty. Lloyds expects shareholders to take a lot on trust. The chance of its offer being cleared by the MMC at all is slim. If it is, the MMC is likely to impose onerous restrictions to prevent any dangerous concentration in the small business banking sector or money transmission. If Mr Pitman decides these are too onerous, he could simply tear up his commitment and disappear into the corridors of Lombard Street.

If that happens, Midland's shareholders might discover that Mr Purves is not as ready to return as they expected. Even if he is, Midland has made it clear that it would not provide another recommendation if shareholders throw the current one in its face. If that happens, Hongkong Bank could be forced to wait a year before it could rebid. Midland shareholders are still wary of Hongkong Bank shares, in which case they could do far worse than sell in the market.

## Making a splash

Thames Water has given copybook answers, in almost all respects, to the shrill critics of the latest water-bashing season. Its capital spending on the utility business, which has reached a plateau at about £400 million, is running at about 1.7 times pre-tax profits. The London ring main is already six months ahead of schedule and could be finished a year ahead of its original 1996 target. It is already reducing abstractions from threatened rivers and helping Thames to avoid hosepipe bans. The high-tech consumer service centre should be even further ahead of schedule thanks to adapting bought-in software that will also save costs. Top management has even taken a pay cut. The impact of the recession on metered turnover, which flows straight through to profits, left a 9.3 per cent rise in earnings, well up with expectations but below the bonus threshold set by non-executive directors.

The exception to this boy blue report may be the above-target 10.3 per cent rise in dividend, odd as that may seem to shareholders. The rise is more than a point above the figure assumed in price-setting. That is mainly because Thames wants to demonstrate the success of its never-regulated water engineering businesses, which contributed £6 million pre-tax after financing costs. Newer acquisitions, particularly the UTAG business in former East Germany, whose purchase cost has been cut by £7 million to £26 million, should boost non-core profits strongly in the medium-term. These are early days, however, and for the moment shareholders, as well as the director general of water services, are likely to be more impressed by the group's strong management performance as a utility.

## The supermarket chain's plan for 'pop-in' shops marks the reversal of a 25-year retail trend, reports William Kay

The decision by Tesco to unveil the first of its in-town Metro stores in a fortnight's time marks a new stage in the seemingly relentless advance of the big supermarket groups.

The inaugural Metro, which will be opened in the former Moss Bros building in London's Covent Garden, could be the vanguard of a specialist chain of as many as 120.

They will concentrate on chilled foods, frozen foods, wines and spirits, plants, flowers, newspapers, magazines and the like.

"It's a very nice little trading concept," claimed Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman. "Shopping for today, we call it. It's the pop-in shop if you like, going in to buy your lasagna, your smoked salmon, your bottle of wine, your bunch of flowers for your girlfriend and out you go."

Tesco expects to take business off the convenience stores. But, according to Bill Myers, food retailing analyst at Henderson Croshaw, the stockbroker, its main target is Marks and Spencer.

"It will be a premium offering," said Myers, "and that primarily will be bad news for M&S, which has been slipping lately."

Tesco Metro also reverses a 25-year trend by the major groups to move out of town into ever-larger sites surrounded by free, flat car parking. Only Sainsbury, among the giants, has made a virtue of retaining a significant high street presence.

If Tesco Metro takes off — and Sir Ian has been successfully experimenting with the concept for several months in three inner-London outlets — we can expect clones to pop up in as many as 120 high streets around the country.

This is only the latest move in the game of cat-and-mouse that has been going on between retailers and consumers since J. Sainsbury opened the first UK supermarket in Croydon, Surrey, 42 years ago. But, as the recent 1991-2 results season showed, the cat is turning into a tiger.

Sainsbury overtook M&S as Britain's most profitable retailer, with pre-tax profits of £632 million, an increase of 18 per cent. Tesco rose by 31 per cent to £545 million, and Argill — Sainsbury's parent — increased its profit by a fifth to £364 million.

In all cases, profit margins and selling space grew significantly, as they have done for many years. These relentless trends have goaded such watchdogs as the Consumers Association and the Office of Fair Trading into circling the sector almost continuously, sniffing for signs of foul play. However, Stephen Mark, of the Consumers Association, admitted:



Confident perspective: Sir Ian MacLaurin does not believe the grocery market will ever be saturated

"No one can ever nail anything on the supermarkets. There is no scale monopoly, because that involves having over 25 per cent of the market, and food prices are increasing by less than inflation."

Nevertheless, it is clear that food retailers cannot go on expanding their selling space and profit margins indefinitely. Or can they?

"I don't think you'll ever get saturation," Sir Ian insisted. "You will always get changes of format, and you will get replacement stores. We are now in our third store in Bridgend. In 25 years. Same in Greenock. So where we've got the right sort of site we can close down and move on to another store."

"As far as we're concerned, there's still plenty of scope," said David Sainsbury, chairman-elect of his family's firm. "We've got about 150 places where we want to do stores, but we said that five years ago. We've only just started moving into Scotland, and about 30 per cent of the population are still not within travel-

ling distance of a Sainsbury's store. There are a lot of areas that are really virgin to us."

He believes his company might cut that to 15 per cent, and speculates that expansion might become more difficult in another five years. Indeed, alone of the big supermarket groups, Sainsbury has hedged its bets on future growth in the UK by acquiring an American chain, Shaws, in New England.

David Webster, deputy chairman of Argill, added: "We're not going to overtake Sainsbury or Tesco. They have more footfall and they both have new store development programmes which, if anything, are bigger than our own. So over the next three years we will very much continue as number three. It is technology that is driving Tesco back to the high street, and generally reducing the average size of new stores. Sainsbury and Sainsbury are tending to shade down below 50,000

sq ft. Ironically, Tesco is alone among the big three in continuing to build 100,000 sq ft. stores.

The main reason for this is Epos — electronic point of sale. The terminals at the checkout desks feed sales information to head office, to the manufacturer and to the nearest distribution point. That has cut the need for large warehouses at the back of the store, and trimmed the shelves. More precise stocking and faster replenishing mean that a store need not display as much of a given item.

"The average shopping basket has been increasing," Mr Sainsbury pointed out, "and that's directly related to the size of the store and the range in the store. Very important to the economics is the intensity, the sales per square foot. Logically, the bigger the store, the lower the intensity of trade: in fact, the intensity of trade goes up. And that's because if you've got the same number of people buying more goods, the shop is less crowded. So with a bigger store, your labour cost comes down as a percent-

age and the intensity of trade goes up."

How long people spend in stores is related to the range of goods and whether there are facilities for eating and drinking. A restaurant significantly alters the time people spend in the store, and the kind of shopping trip.

"Some people make a day of it," said Mr Sainsbury, "more of an outing than just a shopping trip. It means you must get right the amount of car parking, because the longer people stay, the more car parking you have to have."

Shelf space saved tends to be given over to higher-ticket goods, increasing profit margins. Tesco now has a multimillion pound newspaper turnover, and all the supermarkets tempt customers with flowers, wine and exotic-looking chilled food.

"Fresh foods are a good way of getting people into the store," Mr Webster said. "That's why we lead with produce as you enter the store. It creates the impression of freshness and quality, and sets the tone for the shopping experience. Margins are higher, but so is wastage."

Nevertheless, most British shoppers are prepared to pay extra for the right goods, the right service and the right ambience. The big three seem to have withstood the initial onslaught from Aldi and Nemo, two leading Continental discounters, and from Britain's own Kwik Save group. According to Graeme Seabrook, Kwik Save's chief executive, 60 to 70 per cent of the population will always be prepared to pay more.

"We see ourselves as reaching the discount market with a more complete offer," he said. "We have a policy of one brand of each product group. If you go into a supermarket, you will find 10 or 12 brands of sweetener. We have one or two. Aldi may not have any."

Sir Ian MacLaurin declared: "There are clearly two quite different marketplaces, between the Aldis and the Nettos and the Kwik Saves, and the Tescos. The discount stores offer a limited range of merchandise at a cheap price. It is merchandise that we wouldn't sell. It is of a lower quality, but there is a separate marketplace for that. Their impact on us has been negligible, because I think the housewives in this country have been brought up to expect good quality."

That is the justification for profit margins that have reached 8 per cent and show no signs of stopping there. Significantly, none of the big three would commit themselves to a ceiling on margins.

Instead, they prefer to point to their returns on capital which, at around 20 per cent, compare reasonably with supermarket groups elsewhere. But supermarkets are traders. They charge as much as they can in a highly competitive environment and, as Sir Ian pointed out, their shareholders would soon protest if they did otherwise. In the end, it is up to consumers to decide how much they want to pay for the bright lights and sweet music that are all part of the weekly shop.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Exco looks to the future

RICHARD Lacy, the Exco chief executive, yesterday had some pleasant things to say about Stephen Adamson, the Ernst & Young administrator charged with sorting out Canary Wharf. But none of them could hide his frustration with the two years it has taken to get Exco out of the administrator's control since the collapse of British and Commonwealth in 1990. According to Lacy, Adamson "understood the requirements to invest in new projects and take a commercial view". After EBY had looked over four potential buyers, however, and rejected a proposed MBO, Lacy put pressure on the administrator for a quick exit. "They tried to achieve it," he concedes, but credits the real breakthrough to Simon Linnert, of NIM Rothschild, Exco's bankers. Linnert recommended a placing and brought in Caledonia Holdings as the main shareholder. Although 40 per cent of Exco's shares remain with the administrator, Lacy believes the drag of being in administration will recede and that Exco's business will soon recover. "The worst part of administration is that it's so time consuming talking to potential buyers," Lacy says. "We have now won the argument for regaining our independence and we've got an arrangement that should enable us to seek a market solution possibly within the next year."

## Out of print

LEGAL advisers to Greene King, the brewer bidding £104 million for Oxfordshire brewer, Morland, have been



"We've been Hong Konged and Shang highered."

caught out racing for their legal casebooks after forgetting to include a printer's imprint on last week's offer document sent out to thousands of shareholders. According to lawyers in the rival Morland camp, who are surprisingly clued up on 19th century printing law, the 1869 Printing Act means the omission makes the three-volume document technically illegal. After a flurry of legal beavering, Greene King's lawyers yesterday believed their client was covered — the last time the law was invoked was 1925 — which is just as well for Greene King's £3.3 million bid fund. According to Morland, the law, if invoked, would have entailed a £50 fine on each copy of all three volumes of the document Greene King sent out. Even now, a spokesman says, it is still "theoretically possible" Morland may call its rival's bluff and declare its offer illegal. If it does, Greene King will only have itself to blame: the company apparently sent 100 copies of the offending item last week to Robert Dalrymple, a public relations man, of Cardew & Co, advisers to Morland, giving

him ample leisure to spot the mistake.

## Fax faux pas

PROFESSIONALS involved in the usually dry world of trade mark regulation have been left in a minor, but welcome, state of shock after the publication of what they regard as a rather risqué letter in the news sheet published by the Institute of Trade Mark Agents. The letter, from a Hampshire reader, recounts a recent High Court case in which he was involved. It reads: "The judge was due to give his decision but realised that he had left the judgment at his country home, where he had been working on it over the weekend. Apologising to the litigants and lawyers, he indicated that he could get someone to bring it in that evening, but it would mean postponing the case until the following day. 'Fax it up, my Lord,' one of the barristers suggested helpfully. 'Yes, it does rather,' the judge replied."

## Buffalo for sale

THE streets of Newcastle could soon resemble sets from *Annie Get Your Gun*, if a recent information sheet issued by the Tyne and Wear Chamber of Commerce is anything to go by. It contains an advertisement from the Bar K Cattle Company of Arizona offering Newcastle businessmen the chance to buy buffalo herds. Should the prospect of live buffalo prove daunting, the frozen variety is also available. Anyone interested is invited to apply to Charles Krull, 3405 South Tomahawk, Box 52, Apache Junction, Arizona.

DEBRA ISAAC

## Investors or adventurers

From Mr Alan Porter

Sir, As a member of the Lloyd's names "supergroup" from which Peter Nutting has noisily resigned, I should like to contribute a few thoughts. Mr Nutting's problem was that his flock found it difficult to work with a chairman who, as a Lloyd's Council member, had a foot in both camps and, when the chips were down, sounded too close to the Lloyd's party line.

The essence of the problem is that between 1975 and 1989, Lloyd's took on 25,000 new members who were more akin to investors than merchant adventurers. They contemplated bad year losses of £20,000-£40,000, not £200,000-£400,000. Lloyd's did little to protect them, and now that many of them are ruined — in many cases through negligence by underwriters, members' agents or Lloyd's itself — Lloyd's wishes to wash its hands of them.

These people, rightly, will refuse to lie down and be trampled on, and neither Mr Nutting nor the remainder of the Lloyd's establishment must be surprised if a number of individuals who give up their time freely are forced to adopt "hard" tactics to advance the legitimate interests of distressed names.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN PORTER,  
The Clock House,  
Horsham Road,  
Capel,  
Dorking,  
Surrey.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-752 5112.

## Riding to the rescue of distressed names of Lloyd's insurance market

From Mr Iain Mitchell

Sir, The letter from O.D.H. Clauson ("Unrealistic Judgment over Lloyd's Membership", Business Letters, May 28) seems to me to miss the point about the need for relief to the hardest hit names. It is not just a question of feeling sorry for the losers.

With the best will in the world, a number of such losers are simply unable to meet the astronomical losses incurred; there will therefore be a substantial shortfall even if every name willingly pays to his or her full potential. In addition, many of such names believe that their losses are the result of negligence or misfeasance; faced with near or total ruin, it is entirely understandable that they wish to seek redress — hence the spreading rash of litigation. Nothing has yet been proved, but some indications seem to have emerged from proceedings already commenced or settled, that their belief may be justified. If that is so, it must be better for Lloyd's and its members as a whole to seek to settle the whole issue as soon as possible. To allow litigation to run its course may well entail compensation being awarded by the courts, and almost certainly will prolong the agony, inflate the cost and do desperate damage to the reputation and prospects of Lloyd's.

Mr Clauson suggests that to pre-empt these problems with an arranged solution is unrealistic. I think the opposite to be the case. Mr Clauson also suggests that the fault for incurring these losses lies with the names' own bad judgment in choosing their agents or syndicates, in the last resort I suppose that that must be true, but is it really realistic to expect an external name to foresee, simply from a meeting, immen-

ent bad judgment, negligence or worse in those who apparently have a fair track record and are recommended by the name's own agent?

If actionable fault has indeed caused or contributed to their downfall, it would certainly be unrealistic to expect ruined names to waive their legal recourse in order to avoid damaging the wheel on which they have been broken. Unless all calls can be met and all claims are groundless the problems must be the concern of Lloyd's as a whole.

Yours faithfully,  
IAIN MITCHELL,  
2 Oxberly Avenue,  
SW6.

From Mr G. N. M. Mellersh

Sir, In your leader (May 25, "Lloyd's bale-out breaks the mould") you observe that however the proposed rescue plan for ruined names is structured, it will mean that the prudent and fortunate will subsidise the reckless and the unlucky.

As a name who is suffering severe but survivable losses, I certainly don't welcome any further calls on my purse. But if there is no rescue plan, the prudent and fortunate will still have to help out, as it is us who will have to pick up the tab for those of our fellows who have been bankrupted and therefore cannot meet their obligations. Provided the rescue plan is conditional on cessation of legal action against Lloyd's, and that the professionals in and out of the market shoulder an appropriate part of the burden, the plan might just turn out to be more than a lifeboat for distressed names — it could well be part of the rescue of Lloyd's itself.

Yours faithfully,  
G. N. M. MELLERSH  
47 Quarrendon Street,  
SW6.

## Photo call

From R. J. Lane

Sir, As an avid reader of the tabloids, I think I understand the need for the obligatory, regular photo of the same rock stars and footballers. In respect of the Business Times, can we please have someone

else other than Anita Roddick (three times this week)? At least you used to alternate her with Gerald Ratner, before his fall. Yours faithfully,  
R. J. LANE,  
Kerrisdale,  
Granville Road,  
Dorridge,  
Solihull.

## "Achievement of substantial strategic gain"

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, David Hubbard.

During the year we have been successful in developing major opportunities consistent with our strategic plans. These include the sale of our quarries, the first step in withdrawing from our shipping fleet and the acquisition in consortium of the first trust ports to be privatised, Tees and Hartlepool.

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## Equiticorp's former head takes stand in fraud trial

FROM REUTER IN AUCKLAND

A FORMER multi-millionaire went on trial yesterday as the main defendant in New Zealand's biggest fraud trial.

Allan Hawkins, now a bankrupt, and six associates of the failed Equiticorp group of companies face up to 13 counts of fraud and diversion of funds in a trial that is expected to last into next year.

Once that trial finishes, a civil claim worth NZ\$564 million (£166 million) will be launched against some of the defendants. That is not expected to begin until late 1993.

Mr Hawkins founded and headed Equiticorp, a corporate raider with interests in New Zealand, Australia, Britain and Hong Kong.

After listing in 1984, Equiticorp quickly bloomed by taking stakes in venerable

firms through leveraged deals that ultimately proved its undoing.

At one stage it had its sights set on Broken Hill, Australia's biggest company, and by the end of 1986 it had grown to be New Zealand's fifth largest company by market capitalisation. The October 1987 share crash marked the end of its glory days. Equiticorp finally collapsed in early 1989.

Mr Hawkins, once worth more than NZ\$150 million is defending himself because the legal aid provided by the government did not cover his lawyers' fees.

He is now involved in his sons' dry-cleaning business but retains a luxury home in Auckland.

The trial, before Judge David Tompkins, revolves around Equiticorp's NZ\$327 million purchase of the government's controlling stake in New Zealand Steel on the day of the October 1987 crash.

Also on trial are Grant Adams, Equiticorp's former deputy chairman, Kevin Gillespie, Ian Gunthorpe and Max Taylor, former directors, Russell Curry, former equity investments manager, and Paul Darvell, Equiticorp's lawyer.

All pleaded not guilty to the various counts.

In his 300-page opening address, David Baragwanath, QC, prosecuting, said the case had two broad aspects.

The first was the dishonest abstraction of Equiticorp funds for the six executives' personal benefit, with Darvell allegedly abetting them. Baragwanath said they were involved in diverting fees owed to Equiticorp worth up to NZ\$64 million.

The second aspect, he said, was the defrauding of Equiticorp, of the public and of Equiticorp investors in the "New Zealand Steel deal" that involved a complex funding arrangement.

## Poulenc in eastern expansion

RHONE-Poulenc, the French chemicals and pharmaceuticals company, said it had taken a 53 per cent stake in a joint venture with Chemlon, Czechoslovakia's leading producer of synthetic fibres, and will eventually raise its stake to 63 per cent. A spokesman declined to give the cost of the deal.

The joint venture, Chemlon AS, will make and sell polyamide fibres. It is based at Humerne in Slovakia. The Chemlon group's fibre business posted sales equivalent to Fr750 million last year and has the capacity to produce 61,000 tonnes of fibres a year.

Rhone-Poulenc plans a five-year investment programme worth Fr500 million. The company said the deal will strengthen its polyamide fibres activity.

## Daimler offshoot nears Fokker deal

Munich — Deutsche Aerospace (Dasa), aerospace division of Daimler-Benz, said its talks on the acquisition of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft firm, were near completion.

"We need a profitable and worldwide competitive structure in European regional aircraft manufacturing. We are working on that," Dasa said in a statement released ahead of a news conference.

It quoted Juergen Schremp, management board chairman, as saying: "The talks are in the final phase of negotiation."

Last week, Dasa said it hoped to complete the acquisition of 51 per cent of Fokker by mid-June. At the time, it estimated the cost of buying the Dutch group at around DM750 million.

Dasa is co-operating with France's Ste Nationale Industrielle Aeronautique and

Italy's Alenia to develop, manufacture and sell regional aircraft. Dasa said it and its partners wanted to include Fokker in the existing co-operation, which is under German leadership.

Dasa has said it plans to acquire 30 per cent of the stake in Fokker from the Dutch state and the rest through a capital rise at Fokker. The Dutch state owns 31.8 per cent of Fokker, a stake it has held since it rescued Fokker from financial problems in 1987.

Fokker has been planning a 500 million guilder (£155 million) share issue this year to pay for expanded production facilities to enable the company to build a new aircraft, the Fokker 70.

Dasa said it was facing difficult times, but still expected to report slightly higher sales this year.

(Reuters)

## Long-haul policy of Poul Schlüter's government proves its worth Denmark moves closer to paying its way

BY COLIN NARBROUGH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT



Tight control: Erik Hoffmeyer, central bank chief

THE Danish referendum on the Maastricht treaty highlighted divisions over Europe rather than Denmark's impressive economic performance since it decided to become one of the "hard core" members of the Community.

The country's low inflation, trade surplus and promising growth prospects stand in stark contrast to what prevailed a decade ago. The long haul for which the centre-right government of Poul Schlüter, the prime minister, opted in the mid-1980s has transformed Denmark. Its former proneness to inflation has been replaced by an annual rate close to 2 per cent.

The krona is held in the narrow fluctuation bands of the European monetary system and the Danes have tried, though so far unsuccessfully, to push their domestic interest rates below those of Germany. The hope in Copenhagen is that the next cut in Bundesbank lending rates could give scope to undershoot German rates.

Erik Hoffmeyer, governor of the Danish central bank, thinks that the push to close the interest rate gap with

Germany last year was probably over-ambitious. But he is convinced that Danish efforts to master inflation will bear fruit. Given Denmark's relatively brief track record in the low inflation stakes, he considers patience warranted.

With a population of only 5 million, Denmark is one of the smallest members of the Community, but its difficulties of recent years have appeared similar to those experienced by bigger Community members. The French, too, have held inflation well below the level in Germany, but have failed to close the interest-rate gap. Despite suffering less from the international slowdown than other parts of the Community, Denmark, again like France, has failed to dent the problem of high unemployment. The country has a tradition of low unemployment, but almost 11 per cent of the workforce is without a job.

The Danish economics ministry expects unemployment to go on rising this year, despite an expected 2 per cent growth in gross domestic product, about double that of last year. But where exports held up the economy last year,

domestic demand is now expected to come to the fore. Not that the Danes expect to lose their competitive edge. The ministry believes inflation and wage growth will remain low.

Danish exports, so familiar to British consumers, are forecast to grow 4 per cent this year, representing a slight slowdown from last year. But import growth is also expected to slow to 3.1 per cent from 3.8 per cent, promising Denmark a current account surplus of about 2 per cent of gdp. This will be only the second current account surplus the country has enjoyed in 28 years; it returned to surplus last year. But the government does not intend to ease up.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the economics minister, says that policy will remain tight until Denmark's foreign debt has been pared back. State debt held abroad should fall to 77 billion kroner (£6.8 billion) at the end of this year from 92.3 billion kroner at the end of last. It could be that the Danes, who have suffered pangs of conscience over being the world's most indebted nation per head, will soon be paying their way again.

## Leigh held back by interest

BY MARTIN WALLER

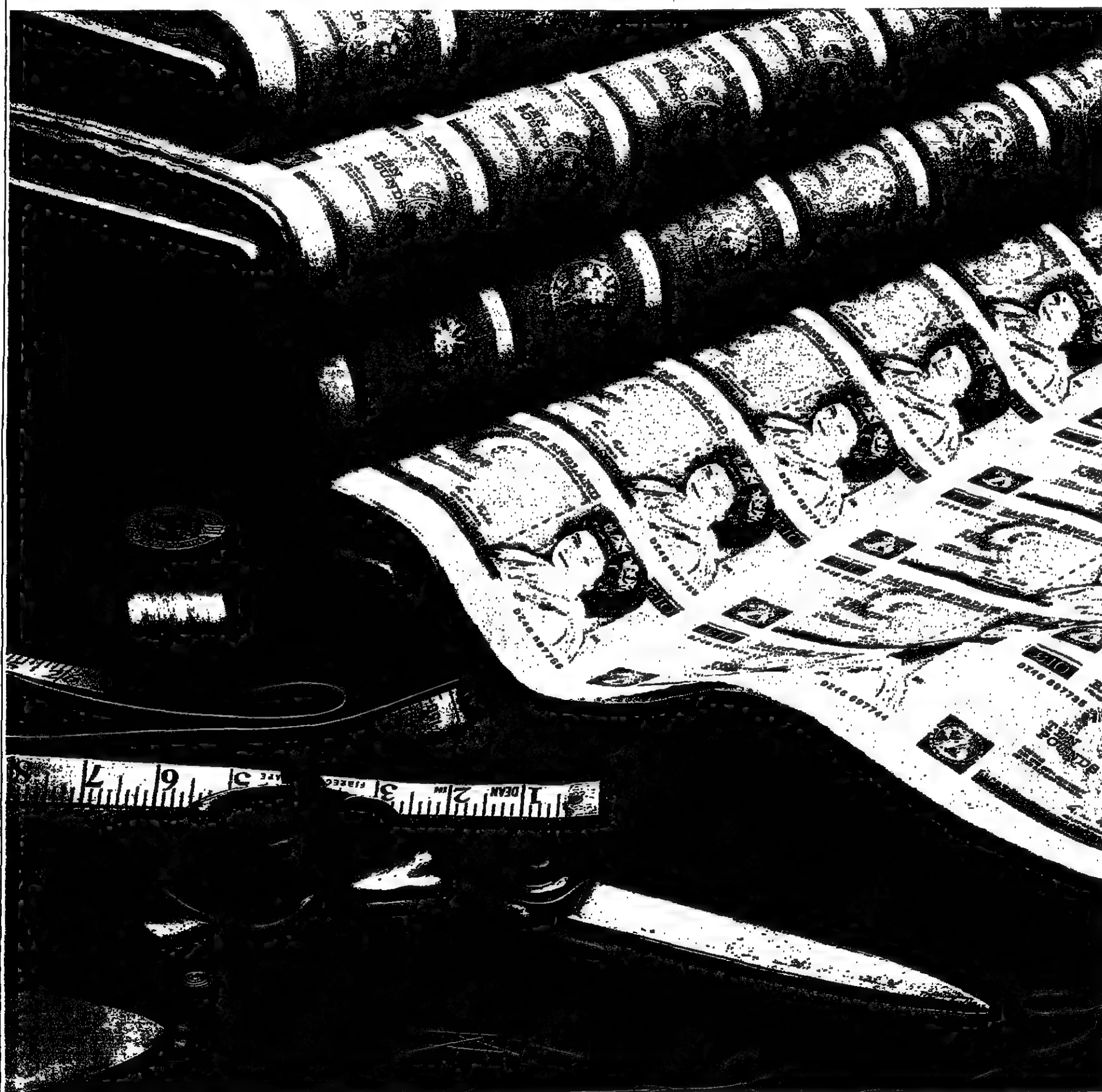
SHARPLY higher interest bills from a continuing and hefty expansion programme held pre-tax profits from Leigh Interests, the waste management business, to £14.1 million in the year to end-March, down from £14.8 million last time.

Leigh was also held back by the recession. This was most notable in the south of England, where there was less waste than in the previous year. A final dividend of 5.37p makes a total of 7.83p (7.64p), payable on share capital enlarged by the acquisition of HT Hughes in September 1990.

Both operating profit and turnover rose 23 per cent, while an increase in the share capital left earnings 14 per cent ahead at 15.5p a share.

Heavy investment, including £23.1 million on two landfill acquisitions, one in the South East and another in the Midlands, turned net interest of £982,000 earned in the previous financial year into a deficit of £2.93 million in 1991-2 and depressed pre-tax profits.

The shares were unchanged at 294p.



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6	Nat Aust Bk	Bank/Disc	
7	Hardy Baker	Breweries	
8	Lucas	Motor/Air	
9	Countryside	Building/Rd	
10	Claydon Son	Industrial	
11	Granada	Industrial	
12	Medeva	Industrial	
13	S & U Stores	Drugs/Sys	
14	Warrington	Paper/Print	
15	BAA	Transport	
16	Bowthorpe	Electrical	
17	Guinness	Breweries	
18	Cable Wireless	Electrical	
19	Telegraph	Bank/Disc	
20	Racal Com	Industrial	
21	Harding Inds	Industrial	
22	Soundcrafts	Electrical	
23	Avon Rubber	Industrial	
24	Diana Bk Sys	Industrial	
25	Fine Leisure	Leisure	
26	Spence	Industrial	
27	Lykes (S)	Textiles	
28	Carroll Comm	Leisure	
29	Body Shop	Drugs/Sys	
30	Roth & Nolan	Industrial	
31	MTL Int	Electrical	
32	Boor (Heny)	Building/Rd	
33	Ap Youngs	Paper/Print	
34	Young A	Breweries	
35	Providence	Bank/Disc	
36	Phon	Electrical	
37	Read Int	Newspaper/Pub	
38	Reuners	Industrial	
39	Mountainview	Property	
40	Broken Hill	Industrial	
41	Banks	Bank/Disc	
42	WPP	Paper/Print	
43	Antagasta	Industrial	
44	Haynes Pub	Newspaper/Pub	

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## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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## BUILDING, ROADS

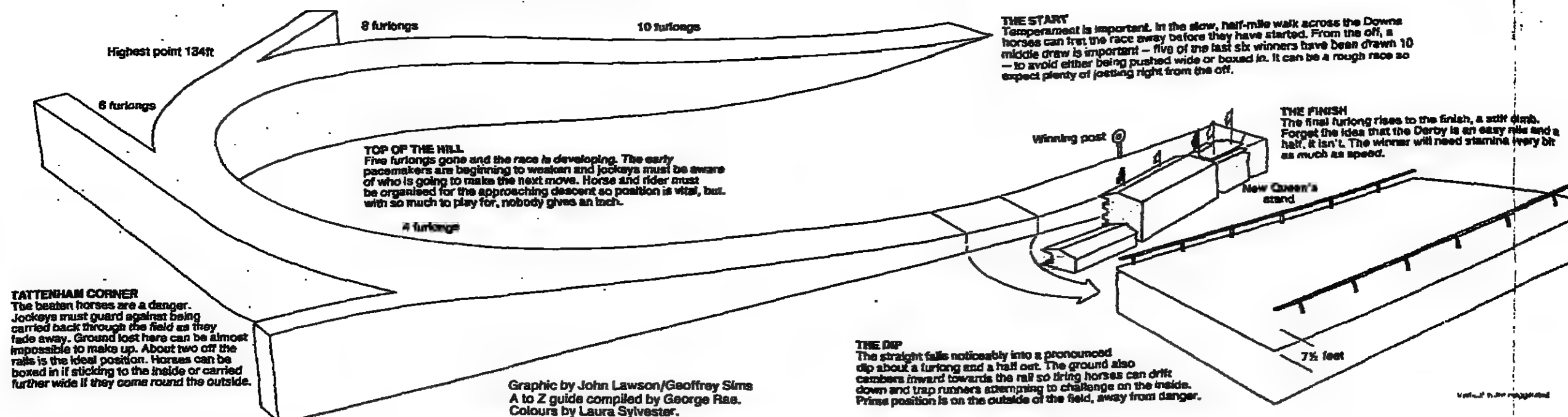
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## The Times guide to the Derby: the course and statistics



## COLOURS CHECK AND A TO Z ANALYSIS OF THE BIG-RACE CONTENDERS

<b>ALFLORA</b> Jockey: Richard Quinn Probably the best of Clive Brittain's three runners, but at around 100-1 that's no great recommendation. Those anticipating a sensation will note Brittain saddled the 500-1 second Termon three years ago.	<b>LOBILIO</b> Jockey: Richard Hills Not for more than a century has a maiden won the Derby and Loblio, one of trainer Clive Brittain's three runners, hardly looks likely to break the sequence. Only confirmed optimists need apply.	<b>RAINBOW CORNER</b> Jockey: Pat Eddery Second in French 2,000 Guineas left Eddery, since relegated, questioning stamina. Has respectable chance of a fourth Derby and ending 16-year drought for the French. Each-way prospects at least.	<b>TWIST AND TURN</b> Jockey: Michael Knappe Has plenty going for him. Sure to stay, proven on a turning course and from a top-class stable with two Derby wins to its credit. Knappe has an excellent record on the big occasion. Solid prospects.
<b>ALNASH ALWASHEEK</b> Jockey: Steve Cauthen Name means imminent victory. Won Dante Stakes at York but minus marks are stamina doubts and questions about handling the course. Trainer Michael Stoute and Cauthen have both won twice previously.	<b>MUHTARRAM</b> Jockey: Willie Carson Hampered when fifth in the 2,000 Guineas behind Rodrigo De Triano. Training setback after Guineas but now working well. Should stay and from a stable in form. Carson looking for fourth Derby.	<b>RODRIGO DE TRIANO</b> Jockey: Lester Piggott Will he stay? Breeding pundits say no, but at 2,000 Guineas winner has class aplenty and Epsom virtuosos Piggott, nine Derbys to his name, on his side. Great chance if petrol doesn't run out.	<b>WELL SADDLED</b> Jockey: John Williams David Elsworth had the winter favourite, Seattle Rhyme, but with him sidelined by injury he must rely on a rank outsider. Beaten in handicaps last time and must make staggering improvement.
<b>ASSESSOR</b> Jockey: Walter Swinburn Ultimately impressive when winning Lingfield Derby Trial but took plenty of time to warm up. Will stay but could get outpaced early. Soft ground will help. Swinburn seeks third Derby. Stable in form.	<b>NINJA DANCER</b> Jockey: Michael Hills First Derby runner for trainer Julie Cecil. Good form as a two-year-old but has had limitations exposed this year. Needs to improve significantly to win this and can be given an outside chance only.	<b>SILVER WISP</b> Jockey: Paul Eddery Attempting to prove old adage "fourth in the Guineas, first in the Derby". Reportedly improved since Newmarket and working well. Trainer Geoff Lewis rode Mill Reef to win in 1971.	<b>YOUNG FREEMAN</b> Jockey: Bruce Raymond Built instant reputation with impressive win in minor company at Brighton, just as quickly punctured in better class at Goodwood. Might well prove a good horse in time but this assignment is asking a lot.
<b>DR DEVIOUS</b> Jockey: John Reid Nominally stable's No 2 to Rodrigo De Triano. Can go well if fully recovered from unhappy challenge for Kentucky Derby. High-class at best, encouraging home reports but stamina a doubt.	<b>PARADISE NAVY</b> Jockey: George Duffield By one Derby winner (Slip Anchor) out of a mare by another (Sir Ivor) but is long odds against adding to the family reputation. Beaten in both his starts, hardly the best record to bring to the Derby.	<b>ST JOVITE</b> Jockey: Christy Roche Not since Secretariat in 1973, also ridden by Roche, has an Irish challenger won. One of the better bets to stay but recent unimpressive Leopardstown success suggests he still has something to find.	<b>YOUNG SENIOR</b> Jockey: Ray Cochrane Respectable form a good company and, despite being another with stamina doubts, there will be worse value in the field. Trainer Geoff Wragg and Cochrane are both previous winners. Lively longshot.
<b>GREAT PALM</b> Jockey: Alan Munro Represents team successful last year with Generous. Likely to improve for second to Alnash Alwasheek at York but such a big colt is not certain to handle the track. Only grey in field.	<b>POLLEN COUNT</b> Jockey: Laffranco Dettori Routenoted from France, where he was set to run on Sunday. Nominally John Gosden's second string to Muhtarram. More rain will help but Shaikh Mohammed might have to wait another year for his first Derby.	<b>THOURIOS</b> Jockey: Michael Roberts Joins Young Freeman in trainer's yardwood attempt to make up for the luckless defeat of Dancing Brave six years ago. Not in that class, though, and a doubtful stayer into the bargain.	<b>THE VERDICT</b> An open race of many doubts and few certainties. Stamina, rather than speed, could be the key, and with that in mind TWIST AND TURN, on the strength of his distance win in the Chester Vase, earns the vote.

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- 5 Bet selection and stake

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### EVER READY DERBY

1 1/2 miles, Epsom, 3.45 p.m.

8 Alnash	10 Pollen Count
11 Great Palm	33 Thourios
12 Rodrigo De Triano	33 Young Senior
13 Alnash Alwasheek	66 Young Freeman
9 Muhtarram	150 Ninja Dancer
14 Rainbow Corner	200 Alfons
10 Dr. Devous	200 Well Saddle
11 Silver Wisp	300 Loblio
12 St. Jovite	500 Paradise Navy
12 Twist and Turn	

Each-way ONE-QUARTER the Odds a Place 1,2,3. Tatts Rule 4(c) may apply. Book class First Show

All prices subject to fluctuation. All bets are subject to the rules of the William Hill Org. Non-runner - no bet.

**BEST ODDS GUARANTEED**

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**William Hill**

**FIRST AGAIN!**

## St Jovite poised to break Ireland's losing sequence in premier classic

By JACK WATERMAN

LESTER Piggott, with nine winners, and Pat Eddery and Willie Carson with three apiece dominate the jockey figures for this afternoon's Ever Ready Derby. However, none of their mounts is certain to stay, and stamina points are important to look for this year among the historical statistics.

**Trials**  
Time has proved the Lingfield Derby Trial over just short of a mile-and-a-half and on a track resembling Epsom to be the most informative. Assessor attempts to become the sixth winner of this event since the war to succeed at Epsom (the names stretch from Tulyar in 1952 to Kahyasi in 1989) or, if not successful, the seventh Lingfield winner to be second or third in the Derby in the same period.

The Chester Vase is run at

just beyond the full Derby distance, and has produced only two Derby winners (Shergar and Henbit) but no fewer than five runners-up and a third, Twist And Turn is Henry Cecil's hope to enhance this record as well as for his own third big race triumph.

**Betting**  
Since 1946, 18 favourites have won and six have been placed, giving a 39 per cent chance of the best-backed horse succeeding, and a 52 per cent chance of reaching the frame. Nine second-favourites have secured victory and a further eight were placed, 20 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

**Guineas winners**  
Should a last-minute tide of public sentiment reinstate the dual Guineas winner Rodrigo De Triano, ridden by Lester Piggott, as favourite, it

is worth examining the record of 2,000 Guineas winners at Epsom: of 29 to have taken since the war only six (five favourites and a second-favourite) have won, four have been placed and no fewer than 19 (including a further eight favourites) unplaced.



Bolger can win the Derby with St Jovite

### Training centres

The Irish sent over no fewer than nine winners between Hard Ridden in 1958 and Secretariat in 1973. St Jovite, trained by Jim Bolger, who saddled Star Of Gdanek to be third in 1991, is their hope.

In the Grand Criterium at Longchamp last autumn, St Jovite finished four lengths behind Arazzi in fourth, a position occupied by Relko in that race the year prior to his 1963 Derby triumph.

Meanwhile, Geoff Lewis looks to Silver Wisp becoming the first Epsom-trained winner (war-time substitutes excluded) since April The Fifth exactly 60 years ago.

### Summary

The records suggest a close race with ST JOVITE getting the better of Assessor, Twist And Turn is also named for a place.

## Twists and turns among the market leaders

By PAUL WHEELER

DO YOU remember Seattle Rhyme? Well you would if you had backed him to win the Derby last October.

While the majority of punters have delayed trying to find the Epsom classic winner until today, spare a thought for those poor souls who have been trying for the last seven months.

The fate of millions of pounds, from professional backers and once-a-year punters alike, will be decided in a little over two-and-a-half minutes from when the stalls crash open until the first horse thunders past the post.

However, this year trying to predict who will start favourite has been almost as perplexing as finding the winner itself. It has been a contest which has taken several twists since Seattle Rhyme was installed 20-1 favourite by Ladbrokes after an impressive victory in the Racing Post Trophy last season.

As the field went into winter quarters, Seattle Rhyme held still the lead, at 12-1.

But on the eve of the new turf season, David Elsworth announced that his charge had injured a foot, and would miss the 2,000 Guineas. Within a month he had been taken out of the betting altogether for glory, he will be in his box at Epsom's Whitsbury yard still waiting to make his seasonal debut.

On the day that Elsworth gave news of Seattle Rhyme's problems, Francois Bourin said that French wonder horse Arazzi could take his chance at Epsom. By late April Arazzi, at even money, held a clear lead in the market and was favourite to win just about everything except the general election. However, Arazzi fell away in the Kentucky Derby and the market looked for a new leader.

Aljazeera took up the pace but, almost as quickly,

dropped from contention after failing in the Dante Stakes.

In the vacuum that followed, Great Palm, Alnash Alwasheek and Muhtarram were left disputing the lead.

All this has made it a good time to be a bookmaker. As Rob Hartnett of Ladbrokes explained: "With the withdrawal of the winter favourite and the inconclusive nature of the trials, we've been quite happy with the way that the market has gone. There's been a good spread for those at the head of affairs so we have a healthy book."

What was now being referred to as the "dead Derby" was given a boost when Robert Sangster decided to run his dual Guineas winner Rodrigo De Triano. The layers prepared themselves for the faithful to pour money at the altar of the great idol, Lester.

They waited, and they waited some more - but

nothing happened. The price went out from 5-1, to 6-1 and then to 7-1. Then the legion of Piggott fans hit back.

By last week it looked like a straight fight between Muhtarram, the professional's choice, and Rodrigo De Triano, with the sentimentalists. But as the rain started to fall, Assessor ranged up to make his challenge.

"Assessor made his charge from 16-1 on Friday morning," Hartnett said. "The weather has been the key with him. We now have a six-way photo-finish between Rodrigo, Alnash Alwasheek, Assessor, Dr Devous, Rainbow Corner and Muhtarram at 8-1."

"I think that today the professional money will be split between several horses, and that will leave the way clear for Rodrigo De Triano, with all the small punters backing Lester."

So there you have it. Now all you have to do is find the winner.

## Hedging bets on weather

THE Derby Day weather looks as difficult to predict as the outcome of the big race itself but a mixed bag of sunshine and showers seems the most likely line-up.

The forecast for the Epsom area promises a mainly cloudy day with some bright spells but the continuing risk of thundery showers, possibly heavy. It will be warm and humid with only a very light south-westerly breeze.

The ground eased to good to soft on Monday following heavy rain but last night the going was officially good except for the last four furlongs, where it remains good to soft.

The downs will be packed by an estimated 400,000 racegoers with more than 400 million worldwide expected to view the 131th Derby on television.

Channel 4's three-hour broadcast begins at 2.00 and takes in three races besides the Derby. For those that miss the race live, a 15-minute highlights programme will be shown at 11.00. Radio 5's coverage runs from 1.30 to 4.45.

The race has a total purse guaranteed at £60,000, of which £355,000 will go to the winning owner. The owner of the runner-up will receive £133,000 with £6,000 for the third and £28,400 for the fourth.

It is estimated that more than £35 million will be wagered on and off the course on Derby Day with 30 per cent of this staked on the big race itself.

Total turnover on the day last year was £70,062 with £219,406 of that invested on the Derby.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** Road: The course is best reached via the A25 and A17. Rail: From Waterloo, Victoria or London Bridge to Epsom Downs, Tattenham Corner, or Epsom Town, all of which are within walking distance of the course. Buses are laid on from Epsom Town to the course.

Condition

Making a



The Times guide to the Derby: the runners, form and selections

# Conditions ideal for Assessor

**IN NAPPING ASSESSOR** to win the Ever Ready Derby at Epsom today, I am banking on the only horse in the 19-strong field who is guaranteed to stay the trip and also cope well with the conditions underfoot.

Trained at East Everleigh by Richard Hannon, whose stable is currently on a crest, Assessor proved that point when running away with the Lingfield Derby Trial.

In the past decade that particular trial has pointed to Teenoso, Slip Anchor and Kahyasi all being good enough to go on and capture the Epsom classic.

In Teenoso's case, it was equally soft at Lingfield as at Epsom, and he powered home on each occasion in much the same way I expect

**MANDARIN**

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

to see Assessor give Walter Swinburn his third winning Derby ride, following Shergar and Shahrastani.

Monday's downpour was sweet music to Hannon because it was good to soft underfoot on the two occasions that Assessor won as a two-year-old.

Being by Niniski out of a mare by Pedingo, Assessor also has a pedigree that is entirely acceptable in the current circumstances.

Judged on his breeding and the style of his Lingfield victory, he will be running on when the majority of his opponents have cried enough.

Great Palm and St Jovite are taken to fill the minor placings. Paul Cole, who sent Generous out to win last year, said yesterday that Great Palm will not mind the ground. On breeding, he should certainly get the trip.

Apparently, Great Palm has thrived at home since finishing second in the Dante Stakes at York. That performance was all the more meritorious since his training had been interrupted twice.

The Irish challenger St Jovite is another who will relish the conditions. Fourth behind Araz in the Grand Critérium last year, St Jovite should do even better now that he tackles this trip, judged on the way that he stayed on to win his trial over ten furlongs on soft ground.

It was my intention to remain loyal to Rodrigo De Triano and take a chance on his stamina if the ground had remained good. But, after Monday's deluge, I cannot bring myself to do so.

However, I can report that Peter Chapple-Hyam remains of the opinion that Rodrigo De Triano, who is clearly the best horse in the field over a mile, has never been better. His gallop at Manton last Friday was the best that he has done.

In an attempt to conserve Rodrigo De Triano's stamina, which must be even more

suspect on the soft ground, I expect to see the remarkable Lester Piggott adopt the same waiting tactics that he used in 1968 on Sir Ivor.

His Manton stable companion Dr Devious, who was originally bought by his present owner in an attempt to win the Kentucky Derby, will give a good account of himself in Chapple-Hyam's view, even though he believes Rodrigo De Triano to be the classier of the pair.

Discussing Muhtarram and Pollen Count yesterday, John Gosden said that the ground has almost certainly gone against Muhtarram, but that Pollen Count will love it.

He went on to suggest that, while a study of Pollen Count's pedigree will raise

doubts about him getting the trip, the way that he ran on the hill to win his Sandown trial, where he finished in front of Assessor, suggested that he might.

With the emphasis now placed even more strongly on stamina, there must be a question mark against Alnasr Alwasheek or Rainbow Corner lasting out the distance, even though they have the assistance of Steve Caughan and Pat Eddery respectively.

At least Twist And Turn, whom Caughan discarded, should stay, even though he failed to impress when winning the Chester Vase.

Confidence in the locally-trained Silver Wisp, who finished fourth in the 2,000 Guineas, has also been undermined by recent rain.

## Susurrations to follow up

JOHN Gosden, two-handed in the big race, can land a Derby Day double with Susurrations (2-15) and Deprecator (5-45) (Mandarin writes).

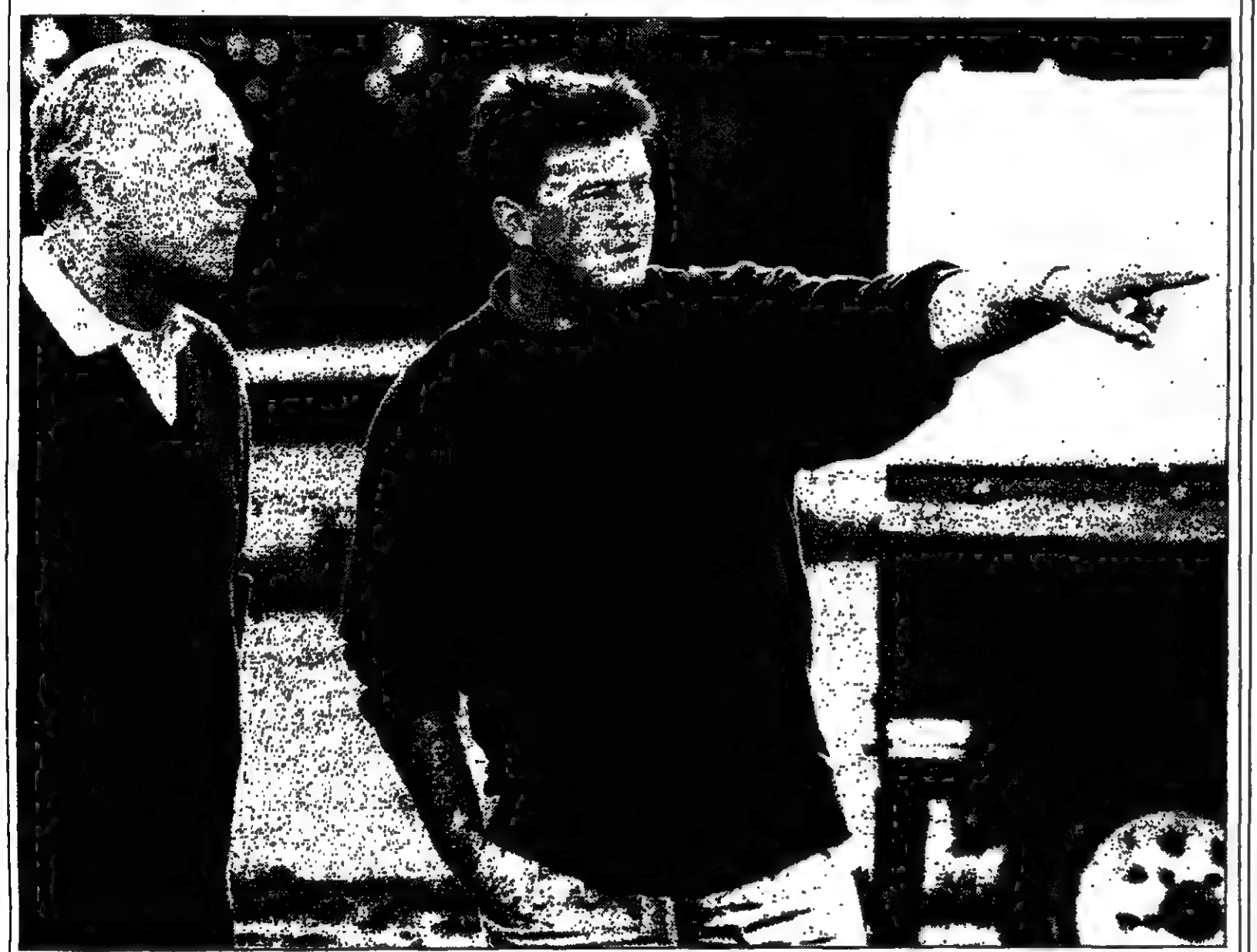
That tough mare Susurrations, who bounced back to winning form at Sandown nine days ago, will relish the ground for the group three Diomed Stakes and is just preferred to the French 2,000 Guineas fourth, Zaahli.

Green's Bird, who was demoted after passing the post first on his debut at Kempton last month, can gain handsome compensation by winning the Silver Seal Woodcote Stakes where he can draw a maiden allowance.

Mercutio's Pet and Fire Top have bright prospects of repeating their victories of a year ago in the Night Rider Handicap and Butterley Brick Handicap respectively.

**THE EXPERTS' VIEW**

<b>MANDARIN</b>	<b>THUNDERER</b>
1. ASSESSOR	1. DR DEVIOUS
2. Great Palm	2. Great Palm
3. St Jovite	3. Twist And Turn
<b>RICHARD EVANS</b>	<b>MICHAEL SEELY</b>
1. RAINBOW CORNER	1. GREAT PALM
2. Dr Devious	2. Rainbow Corner
3. Assessor	3. Pollen Count
<b>NEWMARKET</b>	<b>HANDICAPPER</b>
1. ALNASR ALWASHEEK	1. RODRIGO DE TRIANO
2. Pollen Count	2. Assessor
3. Twist And Turn	3. Pollen Count



Pointing the way: Sangster, left, looks forward to Rodrigo De Triano's Derby participation with Chapple-Hyam, who also runs Dr Devious

## Making a comeback to match Sinatra

The secret to today's Derby was discovered around breakfast time on Monday by Ted Condon, doorman of the Berkeley Hotel in fashionable Knightsbridge.

Born 48 years ago, a dozen or so furlongs from the lush turf of the Curragh racecourse, the Irishman has racing running through his veins like so many of his fellow countrymen. When Robert Sangster came down from his fifth floor suite, Condon just had to ask: "Do you think Rodrigo will stay the trip, sir?"

Sangster, up until the early hours with Frank Sinatra, had asked himself the same question a dozen times about his dual 2,000 Guineas winner. Now he knew the answer. "Frankly, no."

As the gypsies set up their stalls on the Epsom Downs this morning and the Queen prepares to open the new icing-sugar white grandstand in her name, remember this win or lose, today's race is about Rodrigo De Triano and, above all, Lester Piggott.

Without the near magical presence of the 56-year-old grandfather and a horse named after Columbus's lookout 500 years ago, the 213th running of the world's premier classic would be in danger of becoming one of the most forgettable in memory.

A tenth Derby win for Piggott would do to the emotions what Epsom's cambers and bends have done to so many runners and send them spinning out

**The decision to run Rodrigo De Triano has added an extra dimension to today's Derby. Richard Evans met his sporting owner, Robert Sangster**

of control. Tears would flow unashamedly. The man who watched the Derby four years ago while detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, would have put the finishing touches to a remarkable comeback.

Almost as remarkable, in fact, as that of the horse's owner. After the glory years of the late 1970s and early 1980s, during which he was leading owner five times, Sangster was perceived within the racing world to have been blown off the turf by the arrival of the oil-rich Maktoum family.

His demise was somewhat exaggerated — seven group one winners in Australia in 1988 went largely unnoticed — but an end to spending dollars in telephone numbers at the Kentucky sales, the unhappy experience with Michael Dickinson at Manton, and the collapse of the bloodstock market combined with the recession only served to confirm impressions.

As he looked out from his hotel suite this week, he admitted some of the fun had begun to disappear from racing during those "tricky years."

Sangster, in many ways the antithesis of a turf tycoon, does not employ a racing manager, a curse of

tempt to sell Manton two years ago. Sangster changed tack. "After a very high profile operation we went low-key and made it more fun again. Peter Chapple-Hyam suited me as a trainer because he was quiet, unassuming and very relaxed with horses. At Manton, I had always hankered to have fun again by racing one's home-breds."

Although the emphasis was different, the new approach fitted snugly with the Sangster strategy developed in the 1970s. Along with John Magnier and Vincent O'Brien, he set out to build up gradually the best bloodstock based on Northern Dancer's progeny, from which to breed.

"We have ended up with the best stallion station in the world. It takes time, and anyone wanting to start now would have to wait 15 years before they knew if it was a success or failure. Fortunately we laid down our ground-bait before the Arabs came into the market and we have got a ten-year run on them."

Ironically, Sangster initially believed the batch of two-year-old home-breds in Chapple-Hyam's care last year was nothing special. "It's like wine. You get good crops and bad crops. Funny enough, we thought the Rodrigo crop was not that good."

Rodrigo and Dr Devious, mischievously named after one of Sangster's vets, proved him gloriously wrong as they swept up most of the top juvenile prizes.

While Sangster put his money where his mouth is and backed speedily-bred Rodrigo for the 2,000 Guineas, the Derby was the last thought on his mind.

"During the winter months, when the bookmakers had Rodrigo at 20-1 for the Derby, I thought it was the most ridiculous price as I had no intention of running the horse."

"It was after watching the film of the Irish Guineas, when I realised Lester hardly gave him a race, that I thought maybe we have got a freak."

"The only way we will find out is by running him. It is easy to have theories, but you have to find out. To come from three lengths off the pace at the Curragh on good to yielding ground and show that turn of foot... you would never forgive yourself if you didn't give him a chance to do that in the Derby."

He knows all about the doubts. One Newmarket figure has promised to blow a ping-pong ball all the way down Bury Road if Rodrigo wins, while an expert on *The Sporting Life* has promised to eat his rubber duck.

"While I believe he won't stay, there is that wonderful hope that it could come off. Racing is part of the entertainment business and it is a bit like having Sinatra on stage. You want to get the crowds in and you owe it to the industry to run."

In the words of the old crooner, Sangster is doing it his way, and both he and racing are the winners.



Piggott: tenth win would tug the heart strings

## BIG RIDE LINE UP

3.45 EVER READY DERBY (Group 1: 3-Y-O colts & fillies: £355,000: 1m 4f 10yd) (19 runners)			
301 (11)	103-505 ALFLORA 21 (F) (Circlechart Ltd) C Brittain 9-0	T Quinn	80
302 (18)	213-101 ALNASR ALWASHEEK 21 (F,G) (Shalikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0	S Caughan	97
303 (13)	3213-31 ASSESSOR 25 (G,S) (S Nielsen) R Hannon 9-0	WR Swinburn	98
304 (4)	1121-20 DR DEVIOUS 32 (F,G,S) (S Craig) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	96
305 (14)	12-2 GREAT PALM 21 (G) (F Salmen) P Cole 9-0	A Munro	81
306 (9)	0-052 LOBILLO 13 (The Downer Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0	R Hills	70
307 (16)	11-45 MUHTARRAM 32 (F) (H Al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	W Carson	92
308 (8)	1015-05 NINJA DANCER 15 (G) (R Tikoo) Mrs J Cecil 9-0	M Hills	84
309 (6)	02 PARADISE NAVY 18 (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	G Duffield	59
310 (17)	3-11 POLLEN COUNT 39 (S) (Shalikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	97
311 (3)	122-12 RAINBOW CORNER 24 (BF,F,G) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (Fr) 9-0	Pat Eddery	94
312 (19)	111-411 RODRIGO DE TRIANO 18 (F,G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	L Piggott	89
313 (5)	5111-34 SILVER WISP 32 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) G Lewis 9-0	Paul Eddery	93
314 (2)	1114-41 ST JOVITE 25 (F,G,S) (Mrs V Kraft Payson) J Bolger (Ire) 9-0	C Roche	91
315 (7)	1530-0 THOUROS 32 (G) (A Christodoulou) G Harwood 9-0	M Roberts	88
316 (10)	3113-11 TWIST AND TURN 25 (D,F,G) (M Al Maktoum) H Cecil 9-0	M J Kinane	89
317 (1)	1-5 WELL SADDLED 15 (G) (R Wright) D Elsworth 9-0	J Williams	83
318 (12)	2-14 YOUNG FREEMAN 15 (BF,F) (R Kirestin) G Harwood 9-0	B Raymond	80
319 (15)	2310-24 YOUNG SENIOR 21 (F) (Mollers Racing) G Whagg 9-0	R Cochrane	83

BETTING: 15-2 Rodrigo De Triano, 8-1 Alnasr Alwasheek, Assessor, Dr Devious, Muhtarram, Rainbow Corner, 9-1 Great Palm, 12-1 Twist And Turn, 14-1 Pollen Count, Silver Wisp, 18-1 St Jovite, 33-1 Young Senior, 85-1 Thourios, Young Freeman, 100-1 Alflora, Ninja Dancer, 500-1 Lobillo, Well Saddled, 1,000-1 Paradise Navy.

1991: GENEROUS 9-0 A Munro (9-1) P Cole 13 ran

## Form guide to the 19 runners

<b>ALFLORA</b> May 13, York, good to firm: see ALNASR ALWASHEEK. Apr 25, Sandown, good to soft: see POLLEN COUNT. Apr 11, Newbury, good to soft: see RODRIGO DE TRIANO. Oct 29, Leicester, firm: see MUHTARRAM.	<b>MUHTARRAM</b> May 2, Newmarket, good: see RODRIGO DE TRIANO. Apr 18, Newmarket, good: see ALNASR ALWASHEEK. Oct 29, Leicester, firm: (9-2) beat Bilelial (9-4) 11 (7), stakes, £2,700, 8 ran with ALFLORA (9-2) 21 3rd. May 2, Newmarket, good: see RODRIGO DE TRIANO. Apr 16, Newmarket, good: (9-6) beat DR DEVIOUS (9-0) 1 1/2 (1m, group II, £18,801, 8 ran) with MUHTARRAM (9-6) 4 1/2 4th.	<b>SILVER WISP</b> May 2, Newmarket, good: see RODRIGO DE TRIANO. Apr 18, Kempton, good to soft: (8-10) 21 3rd to Lucky Lady (8-8) (1m, listed, £12,794, 8 ran). Aug 15, Salisbury, firm: (9-5) beat Green's Colours (8-7) 1 (7), graduation, £5,900, 6 ran).	<b>ST JOVITE</b> May 8, Leopardstown, good to yielding: (9-0) beat Firing Line (8-11) 3 (1m 2f, group II, £24,000, 5 ran). Apr 11, Curragh, good to heavy: (8-10) 8 1/2 4th to Bezzale (8-7) (7), group III, £11,500, 7 ran). Oct 5, Longchamp, good to soft: see RAINBOW CORNER.	<b>THOUROS</b> May 2, Newmarket, good: see RODRIGO DE TRIANO. Oct 26, Doncaster, good: see ASSESSOR. Oct 18, Newmarket, good to firm: see DR DEVIOUS.	<b>TWIST AND TURN</b> May 5, Chester, good: (8-11) beat Jape (8-11) 3 1/2 (1m 4f 88yd, group II, £29,808, 5 ran). Apr 18, Newmarket, good: (8-11) beat YOUNG SENIOR (9-2) 8 head (1m 1f, listed, £10,416, 8 ran) with NINJA DANCER (9-5) 18 8th. Sep 28, Ascot, good to soft: (8-10) 1 1/2 3rd to Made of Gold (8-10) (1m, group I, £26,338, 8 ran).	<b>WELL SADDLED</b> May 18, Goodwood, good to firm: (9-5) 7 1/2 5th to Baluga (8-2) (1m, £10,000, 13 ran). Oct 29, Salisbury, good: (9-0) beat Constructivist (9-0) 2 1/2 (7), maiden, £2,407, 9 ran).	<b>YOUNG FREEMAN</b> May 18, Goodwood, good to firm: (8-12) 8 1/2 4th to Jeanie (8-12) (1m 2f, listed, £18,600, 9 ran) with NINJA DANCER (9-1) short head 5th. May 7, Brighton, good to firm: (8-5) beat Maj (8-3) 8 (1m 2f, maiden, £1,832, 6 ran). Nov 1, Newmarket, good to soft: (8-10) 11 2nd to Hill Gitter (8-10) (1m, stakes, £5,322, 14 ran).	<b>YOUNG SENIOR</b> May 13, York, good to firm: see ALNASR ALWASHEEK. Apr 18, Newmarket, good: see TWIST AND TURN. Oct 18, Newmarket, good to firm: see DR DEVIOUS. Selection: MUHTARRAM (nap)
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## Classy Pollen Count offers value with paucity of proven stayers

By Gerald Hubbard, THE TIMES PRIVATE HANDICAPPER

RESULTS speak louder than words in racing. Even with hindsight, the last ten Derby winners were likely or certain to stay the distance.

Form lines stemming from his two classic victories over one mile ensure that Rodrigo De Triano is top-rated but, judged on his pedigree, it is difficult to stretch his hypothetical stamina beyond the mile and a quarter.

There is a paucity of proven stamina this year. However, both Assessor and Twist And Turn have proved their ability over the distance. On form I prefer the former, though Twist And Turn cannot be dismissed out of hand.

It is ironic that Assessor's Lingfield form is the hardest of any Derby trial to assess. If it could be assumed that Bonny Scot (9-5 lengths third) gave his true running, then Assessor is indeed a smart animal.

The positions of Anchorite and Spartan Shirel (5th and 6th) go some way to confirming an elevated view of the form. However, it is the thought of tenuous assessment which a handicapper seeks to avoid when possible.

In truth, the form could be excellent or average.

What is certain, there is little to choose between Alnasr Alwasheek and Dr Devious. On 5lb better terms Dr Devious must have some chance of reversing Craven Stakes form with the subsequent Dante winner.

Pollen Count has marginal stamina doubts, but there are no quibbles as to his class. He verges on classic status and represents good value at his current price.

There is little to choose between Muhtarram and Silver Wisp on Guineas form. They could both make substantial improvement over the extra half-mile. In a race with so many ifs and buts, the

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BEVERLEY 103 203 303  
CURRAGH 120 220 320  
GREYHOUNDS 122 222 322











WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1992

## Wright welcomes England's changes

FROM STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN HELSINKI

A FORTNIGHT after being left out of the England team, Mark Wright has found himself the key figure in the new formation designed for the European football championship. Tonight, against Finland here in the Olympic Stadium, he is to play not as a spare defender, but more like a sweeper.

When the players left their secluded training camp yesterday and moved into a lakeside hotel on the outskirts of the capital, Wright was able to shed more light on the role he has been given. It differs significantly from the part he played in the World Cup

finals in Italy two years ago.

His duties then were to cover for Terry Butcher and Des Walker, to watch for opponents advancing unguarded from midfield, and to intercept through-balls. Whereas his brief for Bobby Robson in 1990 was exclusively defensive, Graham Taylor has urged him to prompt the attack whenever possible.

Wright relishes the adventurous prospect. "It is much more demanding," he said yesterday, "but I like to play football, and this gives me the licence to show what I can do, to go forward, and that excites me. If you stay at the back, you can't express yourself."

Although he appreciates that his principal strengths are defensive, challenging opponents on the ground and especially in the air, he has long been recognised as England's most constructive central defender. With Taylor's full permission, all his latent attacking ideas are about to be unleashed.

Walker, though he is not considered a playmaker, will also be allowed to burst forward. "He may not do so in a cool and calculated way," Taylor said, "but with his speed, he could spring instinctively into the attack. I'm saying, go and show me what you can do."

"The problem is that the defenders in England have never been encouraged to do

that," he added. "People assume that they can't, and they become frightened to try it."

Taylor's ultimate plan is to develop a sweeper who is naturally inventive, such as Beckenbauer, of West Germany, Baresi, of Italy, or Koeman, of the Netherlands.

Wright cannot be expected to reach their standard, particularly as he concedes that the system is "still foreign to us". But he is convinced that, if England are to progress, they must adopt the continental tactic, and he readily accepts the responsibility of leading the way into the future.

Two weeks ago, he was leading Liverpool's triumphant FA Cup side through the city streets instead of as-

sembling with his international colleagues for the journey to Hungary. In spite of being available for the subsequent game against Brazil, he was dropped amid accusations that he snubbed his country.

He angrily denies the suggestion, and insists that he was ordered by Graeme Souness to join the victory parade, and had no choice but to follow the instructions of his employers. His commitment to England cannot be disputed, nor can there be any question about the high spirits developed within the team.

Neil Webb remembers the preparations for the 1988 European championship being "brain numbing and

intense". Morning practice sessions were followed by hours of idle inactivity. The last week in Lahti, he said, has passed by contrastingly quickly, and been filled with amusing recreational activities as well as earnest training.

The happy combination of work and play should produce a positive result tonight in the one and only dress rehearsal, Finland, though they were ahead for an hour in Brazil a couple of months ago, eventually lost 3-1, and were beaten 3-0 at home more recently by Bulgaria in a World Cup qualifying group tie.

Litmanen, a precocious 21-year-old midfielder player who scored Finland's goal in the

1-1 draw in Scotland, is regarded as the side's leading light.

Yet England should greet their own new dawn by creating sufficient opportunities for Gary Lineker to equal, or perhaps pass, Bobby Charlton's record of 49 goals.

Their thoughts will then turn towards Denmark, their opening opponents, whose squad is to be announced tomorrow. Wright, for one, will be astonished if his Liverpool colleague, Ian Molloy, is excluded. "That would be a bonus for us," he said. "He has unbelievable talent, and I would love to see anybody whose distribution is better than his."

David Miller, page 31

## Henry hits back in style

BY PETER BRYAN

CONOR Henry, the Irish cyclist who fell off the starting ramp in the prologue time trial at Penzance, had the last laugh on those who found it amusing when he took over the Milk Race lead at Darlington yesterday at the end of the 120-mile stage from Blackpool.

Henry, aged 21, from Belfast, has been based in Paris for the last three years with good results in the French classics. However, he has not been selected for the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

At the start of the longest stage of the race yesterday, Henry was thirteenth overall, 4min 32sec behind Willy Willems, of the Belgian Collstrop professional team. Last night Willems, who missed the decisive split in the field at 50 miles, was lying second, 12 seconds back.

Henry was also missing initially from the break started by his team colleague, Ian Chivers, who was on his own for two miles before being caught by five chasers. It was more than a mile later before Henry, with another four riders, made contact.

Once there, he and Chivers, helped by the former British amateur champion, Neil Hoban, kept the pace high. Henry was the best placed overall of the escapades, and with his "helpers", the lead shot up as they approached the main climb of the day.

The dangerous descent, taken at 55mph, claimed Hans de Clercq but the Belgian soon rejoined the race.

A demonstration at Hawes by workers at the Wensleydale cheese plant did not affect riders and, with the lead well above five minutes at 20 miles to go, Henry was race leader on the road. The chasers reduced the gap slightly and Henry was content to let the others contest the final sprint and finish eighth.

"When the break got established I thought that I might have a chance of winning the stage but I never dreamt that I would become race leader," he said.

Hoban's contribution to the pace paid off. Fourteenth at the start, he leapt to third overall, 36 seconds behind Henry.

RESULTS: Eighth stage (Blackpool-Darlington, 119.8 miles). 1, G. Smith (GB), 4hr 51min 28sec; 2, D. H. Van (GB), 4hr 52min 10sec; 3, N. de Clercq (Bel), 4hr 52min 12sec; 4, I. Chivers (GB), 4hr 52min 14sec; 5, B. Rastorfer (Austria), 4hr 52min 16sec; 6, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 18sec; 7, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 20sec; 8, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 22sec; 9, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 24sec; 10, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 26sec; 11, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 28sec; 12, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 30sec; 13, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 32sec; 14, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 34sec; 15, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 36sec; 16, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 38sec; 17, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 40sec; 18, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 42sec; 19, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 44sec; 20, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 46sec; 21, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 48sec; 22, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 50sec; 23, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 52sec; 24, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 54sec; 25, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 56sec; 26, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 52min 58sec; 27, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 00sec; 28, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 02sec; 29, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 04sec; 30, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 06sec; 31, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 08sec; 32, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 10sec; 33, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 12sec; 34, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 14sec; 35, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 16sec; 36, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 18sec; 37, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 20sec; 38, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 22sec; 39, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 24sec; 40, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 26sec; 41, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 28sec; 42, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 30sec; 43, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 32sec; 44, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 34sec; 45, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 36sec; 46, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 38sec; 47, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 40sec; 48, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 42sec; 49, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 44sec; 50, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 46sec; 51, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 48sec; 52, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 50sec; 53, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 52sec; 54, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 54sec; 55, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 56sec; 56, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 53min 58sec; 57, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 00sec; 58, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 02sec; 59, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 04sec; 60, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 06sec; 61, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 08sec; 62, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 10sec; 63, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 12sec; 64, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 14sec; 65, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 16sec; 66, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 18sec; 67, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 20sec; 68, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 22sec; 69, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 24sec; 70, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 26sec; 71, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 28sec; 72, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 30sec; 73, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 32sec; 74, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 34sec; 75, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 36sec; 76, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 38sec; 77, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 40sec; 78, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 42sec; 79, J. P. P. (Bel), 4hr 54min 44sec; 80, J. P. P. 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# EUROPEAN ARTS

Henry Moore  
holes up in  
the Bois de  
Boulogne



# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1992

# HOMES p7

The woman  
who went solo  
when she sold  
her house



## Henry hits back in style

By Peter Brown

NOR Henry Moore, who has been living in the Bois de Boulogne for 10 years, has been hit by a new wave of criticism. The artist, who has been living in the Bois de Boulogne for 10 years, has been hit by a new wave of criticism. The artist, who has been living in the Bois de Boulogne for 10 years, has been hit by a new wave of criticism.

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Only in France  
would a waiter  
decant your  
champagne into a  
chilled crystal jug.  
Frances Bissell  
recalls countless  
gastronomic joys

Some years ago, my husband and I stepped out of the Hovort in Boulogne and got into a taxi. "Vous venez manger?" asked the taxi driver, after we had exchanged pleasantries about the glorious weather. His tone took on a new shade of respect when I explained that we had booked a table at La Légende. Rue Monsigny, the restaurant run by the chef-patron Alain Delpeyre, which many consider the best in Boulogne. It is hard to imagine a Dover taxi driver asking about your eating plans.

In the spring we went by train to Joigny in northern Burgundy and took a taxi to A la Cote St Jacques on Faubourg Paris. "Do you know Monsieur Lorain?" we were asked. Yes, we did but had never been to his establishment. "Well, madame, monsieur, I can tell you that you are going to experience one of the great glories of French cooking." In France everyone expects to eat out, and everyone eats in the same places and expects to eat the same food.

One lunchtime at Arpege on Rue Bourgogne in Paris, before it became archidélire and always archipein, we looked around at our fellow lunchers. The actress Fanny Ardant and her agent sat at one table. At another, a very young couple were enjoying their food; he could have been, and judging from the warmth of the greeting he got from the chef-patron, Alain Passard, probably was, an off-duty chef. There were business men, lunching ladies, and we two. All had chosen the exquisite menu du marché (then FF150, now about FF250) which M Passard prepares only at lunchtime. The amuse-gueule was a raw egg yolk whisked up with crème fraîche, chives, salt and mignonette pepper spooned back into clean egg shells. Roast saddle of rabbit was the main course, moist and pale, served with a slice or two of its liver, kidney and brains. The sauce was simply a thin, clear thyme-infused gravy and this also dressed the salad of chervil and chives. The feuilletage au chocolat was serious chocolate, as even the puff pastry was melt-in-the-mouth chocolate flakes.

Service is part of the pleasure of eating out in France, from the friendly but reserved, elegant young patronne, who is proud of her husband's cooking and is pleased to tell you about it, to the impeccable, imposing, yet under-neath really quite genial, maître d'hôtel and his brigade in the grand "palace" restaurants. In the mid 1970s four of us ate at Le Grand Veuf, on Rue Beaujolais, when it still had three Michelin stars and Raymond Oliver was in the kitchen. It was our second visit, and we were prepared for the intimidatory tactics of the sommelier this time. We would not be brow-beaten into choosing a different wine with each course, and we ordered house champagne throughout the meal. The some-



Riches in abundance: the days of pretty food in small, artful arrangements on large plates are long gone in France. Flavour is all, and sought not in luxury ingredients but in cheaper fish and meat

lier went one better. He decanted the chilled champagne into a cold crystal jug. It still remains in my mind as one of the most stylish things I have seen done in a restaurant.

I realised early on that the French are not fussy about food and wine matches. Twenty years ago in an ordinary bourgeois restaurant in Paris, we kicked each other under the table when we saw the waiter bring a bottle of daret to a table where a sophisticated-looking couple had just ordered cod for their main course. What ignorance, we thought, red wine with fish! And then we thought again, why not? That experience has had a profound influence on what we serve to drink with what food.

A few weeks ago, we went to one of our favourite bistrot-wine bars in Paris. It was too late for lunch, but we wanted not to be ravenous when we sat down to dinner that evening at Les Ambassadeurs in the Crillon Hotel. Le Bistrot à Vin, on Rue des Saussaies, is a treasure, serving honest food and wine at modest prices. The bonus is Robert Savoye, the patron. A single plat du jour is served and that day it was saucisse en croûte avec lentilles et sa verre de Brouilly for FF59. Wines are served by the glass or bottle, and the only other accompaniment is sandwiches: two slices of pain Poilâne and a filling of Brie, Cantal, Fourme d'Ambert, Roquefort, jambon cru d'Ardennes, rillettes d'oie or saucisson sec, more than a snack for less than FF35. I chose Roquefort and a glass of Cotes de Beaune. M Savoye looked slightly pained. No, with that, he said, I wanted something quite different.

and he gave me a voluptuous Montouis Moeleux. He was quite right.

In Joigny the chef-patron Michel Lorain and his son, Jean-Michel, knew exactly what to give us to eat, having first made sure that there was nothing "contre-indiqué". Thus, we were served a sequence of their unique and intensely flavoured dishes, a signature terrine of oysters from Arcachon, shallots and spinach, but also a rustic bourguignon dish of eggs poached in a red wine sauce enhanced by caramelised cubes of calves' liver and small onions.

The days of pretty food in small, artful arrangements on extremely large plates are long gone in France. Flavour is all, and it is sought not so much in the luxury ingredients but in the cheaper cuts of meat that require careful preparation and slow cooking and the less expensive fish such as skate that has the requisite lip-sticking quality. At the Crillon, Christian Constant, the executive chef, serves boned pig trotter and mashed potatoes mixed with chopped truffle on the business lunch menu. Dinner started with quenelles of smoked mackerel with shards of truffles, the executive chef, serves boned pig trotter and mashed potatoes mixed with chopped truffle on the business lunch menu. Dinner started with quenelles of smoked mackerel with shards of truffles, the executive chef, serves boned pig trotter and mashed potatoes mixed with chopped truffle on the business lunch menu.

The other main course was tourte renversée de miroton de joute et queue de boeuf en croûte dorée, beef cheek and tail served under a



cover of thin, crisp, brown potato slices, looking rather like a tart tatin. This is a very elegant restaurant — marble walls and floor, chandeliers, gilt-framed mirrors, flickering candlelight — and I am impressed that it serves brown, unpretentious food in a heap with a pelle-melle of vegetables.

Across town in the Place des Vosges, Bernard Pacaus the chef-patron at L'Ambroisie is serving aile de raie rotie, belles de Fontenay mées à la ciboulette, estouffade de cuisse de coq bressan à l'ancienne and foie de veau fermier en persillade, pommes lyonnaises. What could be simpler than skate with mashed potatoes, coq au vin or grilled calves' liver? A "modest" lunch, such as this, with perhaps a slice of chocolate tart to finish, a couple of glasses of champagne and a half bottle of claret will cost FF1,600 for two. But it was perfection. I doubt whether anyone's grand-mère ever produced cuisine like this.

Inexpensive eating out is quite possible in France. Just as we have our Chinese and Indian restaurants in every town and suburb,

France has its restaurants recounting its colonial past. Vietnamese and Algerian restaurants can provide good authentic food, but you'll get what you pay for. Neighbourhood bistros are always a good bet because they have a regular clientele who are quite prepared to complain if standards slip.

Railway stations are not, perhaps, where one would choose to eat but one could do worse. Travelling from the Gare de Lyon it is certainly worth planning your journey to allow time for lunch at Le Train Bleu, with its original Belle Epoque decor, lunchtime buzz and bustle and marvellously speedy, professional service. The Côtes de Forez house wine is not wonderful, but is bottled specially for the restaurant and the simpler dishes are recommended, particularly the grills and the plateau de fruits de mer. The station restaurant in Tours does a very creditable fish soup, but I would venture out of the station to the Grand Hôtel de Bordeaux where we have had exceptional wines served in a rather ordinary restaurant where we learned over the years to choose the simplest dishes on the menu.

My favourite places to eat out are those of the chef-patron with spouse running the front of the house. Occasionally now the traditional pattern is reversed, and it is the wife who is in the kitchen, the husband acting as maître d'hôtel and sommelier. Many of the young restaurateurs in France belong to illustrious kitchen dynasties, the Troisgros, the Haeblerins, the Lorains, but many of them set up on their own with no family tradition behind them, like the Majourels at Le Ranquet near Ales, the Prousts at Le Grand Hôtel Moderne in

Chatelleraut, the Delpeyres in Boulogne, the Angelles at La Pire in Rennes. These places have a special warmth to them which comes from a family or a couple feeling that something is so important to them that they want to spend 18 hours a day, six or seven days a week making it work.

Sometimes we use the guides to find these places, but on the whole we use the guides, particularly the red one, to tell us where not to eat during the summer months (and in Paris all year round) if we do not want to end up sitting elbow to elbow with two ladies from the mid-west of America, oblivious of everyone else, recounting a lifetime's gynaecological experiences.

If you thought the food scenes in Buñuel's film *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* were too far-fetched, here is a true story that the chef Gaston Lenôtre told me about his famous restaurant, Le Pré Catelan Bois de Boulogne, where

his wife looks after things. He was just finishing the service at his other restaurant and phoned her to say he would pick her up, but she said: "I think you had better come now, we have a spot of bother." This turned out to be three armed robbers who were busily divesting all the guests of money, jewellery and watches, as well as shooting one nervous waiter in the arm after he dropped a stack of plates. By the time M Lenôtre arrived, the robbers had gone and the police were taking statements. But every single diner stayed to finish their meal. The only two who left were Anglo-Saxons, proving that the French are indeed different from us.

**TOMORROW**  
A fandango of images:  
Jan Morris goes  
motoring in France

## Writing a column out of a meeting

Years ago, I was privileged to meet one of the men who first applied the word "vector" to a type of bank account. I met him at an historic moment, actually, because he had just emerged from the selfsame shirt-sleeve-and-braces design consultancy think-tank meeting at which the full kennel-name of Vector ("Indigo Vector") had been finally settled upon. He looked tired but happy — like a miner, perhaps, at the end of a 12-hour shift, or a brain surgeon who had just achieved a complicated transplant.

Of course, the proceedings of this meeting were not disclosed, but from his exhausted but triumphant state I somehow deduced it had resembled the jury room in Sidney Lumet's *Twelve Angry Men* — you know, sweaty, tense, touch-and-go, life-in-the-balance. Perhaps opposition to "Indigo Vector" had been fierce: the "Blue Strak" lobby was unshakable. I imagined my chap taking the righteous white-suited Henry Fonda role, quietly fighting his colleagues every inch of the way, and remaining cool while his enemies dabbed their brows with big handkerchiefs.

Had I never met him at all, however, I would have imagined something quite different. I would

have assumed that the naming of a new bank account must be a work of inspiration, and that, as such, it must come from a humble individual sitting alone in a padded cell — rather in the manner of the contract Hollywood writer under the old studio system. We could call him Mankowitz. "Get Mankowitz on to this!" the board would command. And a secretary would place a sheet of paper in Mankowitz's in-tray, describing the new bank account and expecting a result by noon.

Mankowitz would come in at ten, take off his hat, shuffle the papers without removing the long cigarette between his fingers, and then start to type short one-liners, stopping occasionally only to pinch the bridge of his nose under his wire-rimmed specs.

Indigo Vector.  
The bank that likes to say yes.  
I want to be a tomato.  
For the little things in life.  
They're tasty, tasty, very very tasty.  
Once bitten, forever smitten.  
We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

And then at half past ten, he would stop for coffee. Perhaps I harbour too strong an attachment to romantic notions of solitary genius. Perhaps I have too

**SINGLE LIFE**  
Lyne Truss on  
imagination and  
unsolitary genius



little respect for the massed talents of the advertising industry. But somehow I prefer the Mankowitz option. The idea of a gaggle of blokes in expensive whistles sitting together and running the palfrey word Vector up a flag-pole fills me with a strange and yawning sadness.

I remembered all this because I have recently discovered the surreal world of paint colour names (Com-

et, Murreur, Quiescence, Even-song, Early December) and I simply cannot bear to believe that these were chosen by a committee in a designer boardroom. There is too much poetry involved, too much imaginative intimacy.

"Right, then," I said, at the paint counter. "I'll have a litre of Hazy Downs please, with Tinker for the skirting," and I caught my breath at hearing the words. It was as though the spirit of a mad poet had breezed through. Walls of hazy downs and "Tinker" for the skirting. Wow.

Just look at a strip of green Dulux shades — "Spring dance, April coppice, Verge, Racecourse, Meadow land, Treemap" — and you can see this poet can't you, his eyes closed, straining to hear birdsong in the rustling trees outside his cell window. "More greens," he smiles to himself (momentarily forgetting the shackles that bind him to the damp stone walls). And he falls into a trance. "Curly kale," he intones, relishing the shapes it makes in his mouth. "Shady fern, Mystic moon, Fresh breeze, Elderwater, Trickle."

"What was the last one?" snaps the man from Dulux who is taking this down. "Trickle," he repeats. "Oh well, it's your funeral." What I am building up to is a confession. I keep meeting people

who think I write this column in a darkened room in a small flat, with just cats for company, and that I write it all myself out of my very own brain! Whereas of course this is a mere illusion, and in fact the writing of this column is a well-organised team affair involving a large number of hacks in consultancy roles, a weekly meeting (with minutes), and an all-day creative thrash-out, in which each person writes a paragraph and then the whole thing is put together by a complicated voting procedure. I mean, "Single Life"? You must be joking. There are loads of us here. Loads. You should see the amount of washing-up.

I am sorry to ruin the illusion, but we all have to learn some time that there is no Mankowitz in the advertising industry; there is no mad poet dreaming of Dulux colours; it's all done by meetings. "Now, a few more greens and thank goodness we can stop for lunch. Anybody got a word that goes with Kale? Anybody?" "Er... yard", sir. "Mmm, so you think we should call it 'Yard kale'. Robbins! Sounds all right to me." "No, sir. I meant — er, kaleyard." "Oh." "There's something called curly kale in the dictionary, sir." "Splendid. All right, hands up for Curly Kale. Next!"



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**DEADLY** The long-awaited sequel to John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* begins previews in the West End following a showing at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Peter Egge stars as Jimmy Porter under the direction of Tony Palmer.

**COMEDY THEATRE**, Ranton Street, London SW1 0ET (01-857 1045), previews tonight-Sat, 7.45pm, mat tomorrow, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**, Falmouth, Cornwall. David Pountney's engaging production of Verdi's great last opera, makes another welcome return to the Coliseum. Benjamin Luxon sings the title role. Susan Bullock is Alice Ford. Preview, June 31, Anne Collins, Mezzosoprano and Richard Angas, Bass. First night, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 0ET (01-836 3151), 7.30pm.

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET**: The company brings Kenneth MacMillan's full-length ballet, *Romeo and Juliet*, into its repertoire for the first time, in a new staging (see review, p.10). To distinguish Birmingham's version from the one at Covent Garden, new sets and costumes have been designed by Paul Andrews.

The Hippodrome, 230p Street, Birmingham B1 2ET (01-222 7488), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

**LOVE IN A BOTTLE**: Ireland's Rough Magic company present Farquhar's first play, following a madcap drinker's

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

**ADVENTURES** with a crew of London comedians. Opening night, Theatres, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW5 0ET (01-228 1000), 7pm.

**TURNER AND BYRON**: Quite possibly Turner and Byron, though contemporaries, never met. But as an artist Turner was intimately connected with Byron's writings, from the moment when the publication of the first canto of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* in 1812 first inspired his imagination. His involvement became its most intense in the 1830s, after Byron's death, when a whole series of paintings bore quotations from Byron or full-length scenes. The new show also fills in the background of Turner's illustrations to the works of Byron, with materials borrowed from many sources as well as the Tate's own holdings.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 0ET (01-222 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2pm-5pm, opens today to September 13.

**ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**: As part of its

entertaining series "Back the colour"

4404, Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

**IT'S A SLIP OF THE TONGUE**: A wistful John Malkovich in a light-hearted drama that seems to equate bad songs and bad luck. Directed by David Mamet. Theatres, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW5 0ET (01-228 1000), 7pm.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**: A new series of plays, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

**HEARTBREAK HOUSE**: Paul Turner and Vanessa Redgrave head the cast in a new production of the timeless, state-of-the-art drama. Theatres, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW5 0ET (01-228 1000), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 120mins.

**HENRY IV, PART 1**: A new production of the timeless, state-of-the-art drama. Theatres, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW5 0ET (01-228 1000), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 120mins.

**THE BOURNEMOUTH BOAT**: Richard Jones's 30-year production, with Timothy Spall as a brothel house, first night, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 0ET (01-836 3151), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm, 150mins.

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## New look, same old young lovers

**Romeo and Juliet**  
Hippodrome, Birmingham

THE Royal Ballet has a habit of giving itself new productions of the classics every few years. So it seems surprising that *Romeo and Juliet*, arriving for the first time in Birmingham Royal Ballet's repertoire, is given in the same staging that has done service at Covent Garden for 27 years.

Even if the popularity of Kenneth MacMillan's version made it the safe and obvious choice (and one which regional audiences might want to see), it is not odd that the mature choreographer has no second thoughts on characters he first put on stage early in his producing career. Yet apart from adjusting and brushing up some details, only the new designs by Paul Andrews give the ballet a different look.

Andrews, straight out of college, sensibly — but not always successfully — tries to sidestep comparisons with Georgiadis's Covent Garden designs by moving the action (as he explained in these pages last week) back to the early Renaissance. His scholarship is admirable: his theatrical sense less developed.

The one scene where he improves on the original is Juliet's bedroom, less monumentally vast. His costumes do not always help much to distinguish the characters — especially at first, where it matters most — and his front of a castle and a walled city on adjacent mountains arouses false expectations.

What would we say of MacMillan's

**Romeo and Juliet**  
Hippodrome, Birmingham

choreography if seeing it for the first time? Admiration, especially for the love duet at the end of Act 1 (the so-called balcony scene which actually takes place in the garden), for Romeo's rumbustious solos, for Juliet's tremulous duets, and for the deaths.

There would be astonishment, however, at the prominence given to three whorers, and equal astonishment at how little Juliet is given in the second act: surely the latter is something MacMillan could have rectified this time. Maybe he could have found something less banal for the corps de ballet to do.

Alexei Fadeychev's injured knee meant that the first night Juliet, Nina Ananiashvili, had an unexpected partner. It could be that a fellow guest from the Bolshoi would have provided a stronger foil for her quiet, reticent playing. She is a gentle Juliet, spunky enough with her nerves, very nervous of Paris, growing visibly in the famous scene sitting on her bed, amazingly quick and decisive in following Romeo into death at the end.

But Kevin O'Hare's acting as Romeo, although almost painfully sincere, proved too pallid to show her off. In his dancing, O'Hare was probably wise to concentrate on impetus and attack, which made a strong total



Romeo and Juliet. Act III: Nina Ananiashvili and Kevin O'Hare

effect, although at the expense of good footwork.

The company's newness to the ballet brought benefits and disadvantages. The orchestra played Prokofiev's score with engaging freshness under Barry Wordsworth: harsh when needed, but never raucous. On stage however, the performances, even from those dancers

best suited to their roles, inevitably lacked depth. So far, they should develop: meanwhile, however, the Lord Capulet is especially interesting in the way his anger grows gradually instead of bursting out, and is always tempered by fatherly affection.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## THEATRE

## Inside the outsiders

**The Man Outside/ Porcelain**  
Chelsea Centre/ Etcetera, Camden

IN BOTH these plays, the hero is an outsider. In *The Man Outside*, he is a German corporal shattered by his survival on the Russian front. In *Porcelain*, a Chinese boy found weeping beside his murdered lover in a public lavatory at Bethnal Green.

Chay Yew's play, *Porcelain*, is a most remarkable achievement: strongly constructed, sensitively directed, and acted with alert precision by its five actors, whose contribution to the production the programme acknowledges. They sit facing the audience on a row of chairs for almost the full 90 minutes, speaking directly at us, even when engaged in a question and answer dialogue between themselves. The rear wall and floor gleam with the whiteness of a urinal; four of the actors play white Londoners and wear identical black suits, framing the fifth (Daniel York), the Chinese boy, wearing white. Around his feet lie hundreds of the original cranes he compulsively

folds from crimson paper during his interrogation. They spatter the floor like blood.

A bitter tale of alienation emerges as the four white Londoners alternate between the role of chorus, neutral, condemning or comprehending, and the characters of prison psychiatrist, the boy's father, a television fact-finder and the dead lover. The boy gradually allows himself to voice the sense of isolation of a gay Chinese, feeling himself to belong nowhere, longing for friendship and finding a semblance of it in anony-

mous sexual encounters. A sordid crime becomes a drama of racial grief, generating the urgency of a thriller and the power of an archetype.

The two directors, Glen Goei and Stephen Knight, judge the pace and unemotional tone to perfection, breaking the tension when an actor suddenly grins, intensifying it by flooding the stage in crimson light. The performances by York, David Tysall, Adam Matalon, Julien Ball and Michael Parkinson are terrific.

THE Man Outside was the only play

## OPERA

## Talent on parade

**National Opera Studio**  
QEH

THE 13 singers in the National Opera Studio's annual showcase performance on Saturday had to work pretty hard not to be upstaged by Tim Albery's abstract and extremely witty production of extracts from eight operas ranging from *Maria Padilla* (Donizetti) to *Albert Herring*.

Within an elegant, realist setting by Jon Morrell and Charles Edwards, that nodded cheerfully to the Magritte exhibition next door, the four scenes in each full followed each other seamlessly to entrancing effect. Only Mar's rifle shot, launching *Freischütz* Act II and causing Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* to fall to the floor in a dead faint, could be considered going slightly too far, and Agathe and Aennchen in dimly lit scenes with blonde plaits peered on the edge of sending Weber up — the grossest possible crime in my book (I will give Albery the benefit of the doubt this time).

But it is good for students to get to grips with contemporary production style, though on this showing "students" is not quite the most just: there were several finished artists here, as their order-books in the programme biographies confirmed. Mary Plazas's bright, mettlesome soprano has already been heard just as the Voice from Heaven in *Don Carlos* at the Coliseum, where she was unfortunately positioned almost as far away as the real thing; here, at close quarters, her singing as Maria Padilla was quite

thrilling in its discipline and impact.

Kay Jordan (Anne Bolena) was just as impressive: more generous vibrato, though, might counter him of sour tuning at the top. The baritone Mark Morgan Daymond has "star quality" written all over him, and he tore jealous passion to tatters as Bizet's Zurga, in excellent French. In the latter respect he was matched by Mark Le Brocq as Massenet's Des Grieux, every syllable perfectly placed, but sadly not by Rosemarie Arthurs' "Voyons, Manon" as is much about words as it is about notes, and appealing soprano tone cannot make up for indistinct declamation. The same went for Plazas's Leila.

Also notable were Anita Morrison's liquid soprano and impeccable sense of line as Agathe, Ann Taylor-Morley's vibrant mezzo as the Padilla sister, Julie Unwin's attractively creamy Rosina, and the lyric tenor of Mark Luther as Donizetti's Percy.

All will be heard more of, and all benefited from the wise and considerate accompaniments of David Parry and the Bournemouth Sinfonietta: a wealth of talent, then, hearteningly well displayed.

RODNEY MILNES

## ROCK

## P J the pacesetter

**P J Harvey**  
Town & Country

TO HIGHLIGHT the conservative working practices of most modern bands takes an act such as P J Harvey — the first significant rock trio to be led by a guitar-playing woman.

The product of a sheltered upbringing in the Dorset village of Corscombe, 21-year-old P J Harvey has evolved a uniquely attractive style of singing and songwriting while simultaneously upholding a touching faith in first principles. Her enigmatic band took the stage for about an hour, armed with just three instruments (guitar, bass, drums), two voices (Harvey's and the electronic falsetto of drummer Robert Ellis), and a bunch of songs that married inextinguishable build-ups of tension to controlled washes of release. With a production that was austere (to put it mildly), the show inspired rapt attention and abandoned popping in roughly equal measure.

In among the group's intense, left-field amalgam of post-punk blues, folk and rock, could be heard dim echoes of Killing Joke's guitar sound, and Siouxsie & the Banshees' scansion and choices of intervals. Thanks to several bursts of straining guitar noise from Harvey, and Ellis's explosive drum taunts, notably on "O Stella", there were also intriguing hints of what The Screaming Blue Messiahs might have achieved if they could have been bothered with formal structures and melodies.

With her black hair fiercely scraped

back and her sleek, black-clad physique hung with an enormous red Gretsch guitar, Harvey looked a picture of shy hauteur as she directed affairs with scarcely a murmur to the crowd. Employing an underdeveloped playing and singing technique with imagination, discipline and guile she stamped a mark of calm authority on the bluesy "Dry", the frantic "Joe" and the fractured, jazzy rhythm of "Hair". Less successful was a deconstruction of Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited", which reduced the song to sharp, angular blocks and ruinously impaired the flow of the lyric.

Most of the arrangements, however, were brief and to the point, their endings laudably curt and unshowy, while the band was confident enough to finish after just two encores, leaving a highly motivated audience with a strong desire to hear more.

P J Harvey is one of those wild mutations which are thrown up every so often, and it seems likely that the band will have a profound effect on the course of rock in the Nineties. Whether they end up as unsung heroes (like Husker Du) or a commercial sensation (like Nirvana) remains to be seen.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## ENTERTAINMENTS

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# Sight-readers score extra points

From Whiteman to Westbrook, jazz musicians have dabbled in classical music. Clive Davis charts the history of their experiments

The trumpeter Harry James summed up the mood on the evening in 1938 when Benny Goodman led an all-star line-up into that shrine of good taste, Carnegie Hall. It was not the first time that a band had been admitted to the venue, but the musicians and the audience sensed that this was a portentous occasion, a moment when the establishment might begin to take jazz seriously. James, waiting for the curtain to go up, could not help feeling nervous: "I feel," he was heard to say, "like a whole in a church."

Times rove on, and today there is nothing outrageous about lowly jazzers venturing into concert halls or even, from time to time, laying hands on the classical repertoire. Goodman himself recorded works by Mozart, Brahms and Debussy (to mixed reviews, it should be said), and commissioned contemporary pieces by Copland and Bartók. On June 11, his arch-rival Artie Shaw will be at the Festival Hall to lead a programme in which Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony and the Mozart Clarinet Concerto will be heard in conjunction with Shaw's hits of the Thirties and Forties.

At 82, Shaw will be restricting himself to conducting rather than playing. The soloist will be the enormously versatile American reeds player and arranger Bob Wilber (the man responsible for the exquisite re-creations of period music in Francis Ford Coppola's film *The Cotton Club*). For the jazz performances Wilber will lead a group featuring trumpeter Kenny Baker and pianist Oliver Jones. The classical pieces will feature the Wren Orchestra from London.

Shaw, in fact, abandoned the clarinet almost 40 years ago. A mercurial figure with an abiding interest in literature and philosophy (and a long list of ex-wives, among them Lana Turner and Ava Gardner), he was seldom at ease in the role of all-American swing idol. After periodic retreats from the music business, he laid down his instrument for the last time in 1954.

Shaw was a contradictory

musician, who veered from maudlin string arrangements of ballads to nimble small-group improvisation and austere chamber music. While his versions of "Begin the Beguine" and "Frenesi" brought in untold royalties, he went on to work as a soloist with several American orchestras and to make the album *Modern Music for Clarinet*, something of a collector's piece, which included works by Ravel and Shostakovich.

He and Goodman were not the first examples of a classical-jazz crossover. The so-called "symphonic jazz" movement was underway as early as the 1920s, helped along by the popular dance band leader Paul Whiteman. In 1924, Whiteman asked George Gershwin to compose a "jazz concerto" for a concert entitled "An Experiment in Modern Music". Gershwin's response was *Rhapsody in Blue*.

The pace began to accelerate in the post-second world war era. By 1946 another big band, led by Woody Herman, was appearing at Carnegie Hall in the premiere of Stravinsky's *Ebony Concerto*. Around the same time a young pianist by the name of Dave Brubeck was studying under the French composer Darius Milhaud. With his classically-derived harmonies and varied use of time signatures Brubeck did much to attract a new audience in the Fifties. The same was true of the Modern Jazz Quartet, whose cool sound represents a discreet compromise between the blues and 18th century fugues, and Jacques "play Bach" Loussier.

During the 1980s the gap between the jazz and classical camps has narrowed even further, at least in terms of instrumentalists. The Mar-salis brothers, Wynton and Branford, were the most conspicuous examples. Keith Jarrett should not be overlooked either. A keyboard virtuoso with a taste for extravagant improvisations, he surprised everyone with his understated recordings of Book One of *The Well-Tempered Clavier* and the *Goldberg Variations*. Another well-known interpreter of Bach, Friedrich Gulda, was back on



Eminent pioneer of jazz/classical fusion: the late Benny Goodman in London in 1980, studying a score for that year's Aldeburgh Festival

the jazz trail recently, working alongside the German Hammond organist Barbara Dennerlein.

This year's Proms programme also bears traces of cross-fertilisation. In August John Harle will be giving the first performance of a saxophone concerto by Richard Rodney Bennett, originally composed for the late Stan Getz. Later that month the pianist-composer Mike Westbrook will be wheeling out his "Big Band Rossini" project to mark the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth.

Westbrook is the most idiosyncratic of modern British jazzmen. He has been far more active on the continent than in this country, but apart

from the Proms, he will be at Ronnie Scott's at the end of this month (June 29), and next Tuesday at the Greenwich Festival he will be giving a performance of his settings of William Blake.

If there is one area where the contemporary jazz world can learn a lesson from "straight" music, it is in terms of respect for tradition. Musicians such as Westbrook and Bob Wilber complain that, amidst the abundance of young, formally trained players, just a few possess a basic knowledge of the music's past. Only a minority are willing to delve back further than Charlie Parker or even John Coltrane.

The result is a narrow and predictable repertoire. As Wilber puts it: "There is this false notion that a new style in jazz makes previous ones obsolete. But for a jazz musician not to know anything about Louis Armstrong is like a classical student not knowing Beethoven."

Even some educators acknowledge that there is a problem. Lionel Grigson, a jazz instructor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, believes that the structure of academic courses needs to be reformed. "Our students are expected to attend lectures on early forms, but it's very hard to get them interested. That is partly because youth culture is very much

about what is popular now.

"Another problem is that jazz education at music colleges is conditioned by the nature of the host institution. The colleges are controlled by classically trained administrators who tend to think that you can teach jazz through the same principles as classical music. They see a big band as very desirable, for instance, because it looks like the equivalent of a symphony orchestra."

"So you have people sitting down to read complicated parts, but when it's their turn to solo, they don't know how to express themselves. The imbalance means you're turning out people who can sit in an orchestra and be technically proficient, yet the other skills

are simply not understood."

Grigson recently produced a book, *Jazz From Scratch* (published by Faber Music), which contains basic instructions on improvisation, with musical examples ranging from James P. Johnson to Fats Waller and Bill Evans. He argues that educators need to devote more attention to the instinctive elements of jazz.

"People like Armstrong, although they learnt to read music, didn't start out that way. There's nothing wrong with dots on a page, as long as they're used in the right way. We need to tackle this question from the roots. It shouldn't be a question of the ear versus the eye. We ought to be able to find a synthesis."

## ARTS BRIEF

### Shades of pearl

PAULINE COLLINS is returning to the West End for the first time since her performance as the frustrated housewife in Willy Russell's *Shirley Valentine*. This time she plays Pearl, a woman torn between her ten-year-old son, her mother and her gentleman friend in a new play by Sharran Macdonald (*When I Was A Girl, I Used To Stream And Shout*). *Shades*, which is set in Scotland in 1956, is directed by Simon Callow. The production's premiere is at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking, which is being billed as the largest new theatre in the southeast. The theatre opens on June 9, and the play on June 16. Before reaching the West End in July the production will visit Brighton and Bath.

### Romeos-a-go-go

WHAT is the attraction of *Romeo and Juliet*, that virtually every ballet company in the country is performing it? This week, Birmingham Royal Ballet unveiled its newest acquisition: Kenneth MacMillan's 1965 production re-designed by Paul Andrews. At Covent Garden, the Royal Ballet's original MacMillan production returns in July; then in August English National Ballet revives Ashton's 1955 Danish production for its Festival Hall season.

London City Ballet's version, choreographed by Ben Stevenson, is part of LCB's autumn tour, starting in September. Now Scottish Ballet has announced it is reviving John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* as the centrepiece of its autumn season, which opens on August 18 in Glasgow.

### Last chance...

ALEXANDER CALDER has suffered somewhat from being considered a lightweight among 20th century sculptors. Literally lightweight, in fact, as his best-known pieces, the fluttering mobiles and outlined wire sculptures, have very little physical substance at all. That does not necessarily mean that they are frivolous, however. The compact retrospective in the Royal Academy's Sackler Galleries (071-439 7438) until Sunday is full of charm, energy and movement, and fills the light-box space with life and colour. Why should not galleries be a place for fun as well as anguished contemplation?

## OPERA: PREVIEW

### Bringing everything together

Soprano Susan Bullock sang *Butterfly* with a broken leg and is now *Mistress Ford* in *Falstaff*. She talks to Hilary Finch



Bullock: "I feel like posing with a big bag of chips"

Alice Ford, said Verdi, stirs the porridge. The leading lady and prime mover of his last great opera, *Falstaff*, most, he insisted, have a bit of the devil about her. When Susan Bullock sings the role for the first time as David Pountney's production is revived at English National Opera tomorrow, she fully intends to show who is in charge. For once, this really is her show.

*Falstaff*'s scenes of seduction, guile and final humiliation are all set up by Mistress Alice Ford. She it is who provides both the laundry basket for his ducking and the "fairies" for his torment at Herne's oak. For Susan Bullock, this is the chance to bring together everything she has been developing vocally and dramatically in the first six years of her career.

"The roles I have done at ENO have always been pivotal to each particular stage of my development," Bullock explains. "Gilda [*Rigoletto*] was absolutely right for what was happening in my voice at the time. Then there was *Faust* and *Otello* — and *Mikado*'s Yum-Yum was like a sort of baby Rosalinde for the *Fledermaus* that came two years later. Alice Ford brings it all together.

"It's a hard part, one minute you're singing huge *Aida*-like phrases, and the next it's all chit-chat. One moment you have to be super-confident and totally in charge; the next you're having to blend in and bubble along in ensemble with the three other women, almost like a choral singer."

The unusually perfect pacing of young Bullock's career has not been without a good deal of frustration on the way. Waiting in the wings seemed at one point like a career in itself. She would spend months learning roles and never performing. She covered *Faust* for three years before finally going on as Marguerite. While on contract to ENO (Bullock is now freelance) she was frequently used as a standby, called up at the last minute to take over from someone who had withdrawn. And then there was the curse of the second cast. In *Otello* she took over from Marie

McLaughlin. In *Rigoletto* from Anne Dawson. In *Peter Grimes* from Josephine Barrow. No six-week rehearsal, often no stage and orchestra rehearsal, no first-night glory.

One of Bullock's most important breaks happened when she took over the title role in *Madam Butterfly* from Janice Cairns, who had injured herself falling off the battlements at Tosca. But when it came to Bullock's own *Butterfly*, in recent weeks, fate intervened personally and painfully.

She broke her leg in January, falling on ice in Antwerp, where she was singing in *King Priam*. Consequently, her *Butterfly* was performed with a four-and-a-half inch metal plate and five screws in her leg. She was in constant, severe pain.

size 14 *Butterfly* with a round face is apparently not on ENO itself, while tenderly nurturing the career of Bullock. He has also been keying in to a now obsessively image-conscious society through its much-criticised *Playboy*-style advertising. Preconceptions are moulded, expectations are formed.

"It has become totally out of proportion. All women opera singers talk non-stop about diet, because they're terrified of being derided as "strapping" or "well-oiled".

Bullock feels this neurosis is only being exacerbated by the rise of the opera video and television opera. Just as concertgoers are already finding that live music-making can pall compared with the fix of high-volume CD sound through earphones, so reactions to opera are in danger of being limited to the superficial, through the selective and literal eye of the camera.

A black woman? Eyebrows have been raised. An outside *Butterfly*? Where is the line to be drawn? Bullock pulls from her bag a cunning she had torn from last week's *Saturday Review* in *The Times*.

John Whitley had quoted Matthew Epstein of Welsh National Opera in his anxiety that "in a culture driven by sex appeal, there is an obvious danger that artists will be selected for their physical appearance." He goes on to cite the promotion of Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Cheryl Studer and Cecilia Bartoli, all of whom have "something close to filmstar good looks."

"You know, I feel like posing for your photographer: stuffing an ice-cream, and with a big bag of chips in my hand!" Bullock's passions, though, are being reserved for her Kanya Kabanov with Glyndebourne Touring Opera in the autumn, and for a future in which Verdi's *Desdemona* and Strauss's *Marschallin* are unlikely to be too far away.

What the reviews did focus on, here and there was Bullock's not being credibly sylph and geisha-like of figure. There were days when Anna Hunter and Monserrat Caballé could do a *Butterfly* without anyone blinking an eye. Now even a

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Take your partners for dancing in limbo

The publicity pack that heralded the coming of *Angels* (ITV) described it as "quirky", which is always a worrying sign. "Quirky" tends to be deployed when other, more direct words — "funny", for instance, or "tragic", or "riveting" — do not quite seem to fit.

In theory, it suggests unexpected humour, different thinking and unconventional structure. In fact, like "zany", another favourite blurb word, "quirky" is usually a cop-out, suggesting that the people who have to see these things in advance, in order to write the promotional notes, are not quite certain what they have just watched, or indeed whether they enjoyed it. There are hints of a scattershot of ideas and styles, not all of which come off as well as they were meant to.

*Angels*, the 90-minute film written by Tony Grisoni and directed by Philip Saville, was broadcast last night. It was quirky.

There were three angels: the

raukish one (Tom Bell), the potty punk one (Eric Mallett) and the good-looking female one (Cathy Tyson). Their job was to turn up at deaths and take care of any unfinished business, so that the newly deceased could take the big walk to the sunset with easy minds. While all this was being sorted out, the grateful dead had to hang around for a short eternity in a celestial hotel lobby, which I suppose corresponds to most people's idea of purgatory.

The three hapless corpses-in-waiting were James Purefoy as a Maltese warrior shot to death in a gang fight; Louise Lombard, driven to suicide by a succession of ill-starred love affairs; and Alfred Molina, a boozey hack who was meant to fall out of a train (BR will have appreciated the bit about the faulty door lock, but whose equally drunken friend fell instead. This caused a rage among the angels, there was talk of a rip in the cosmic fabric and the story could not end until the dead man was



Client and angel: Louise Lombard, Tom Bell in *Angels*

brought back to life and Molina died as required.

Eventually he obliged, voluntarily taking a dive because, on a daytrip to the celestial hotel, he had discovered that Purefoy was his long-lost father, now ten years younger than he, and a snooker cheat: all of which, for some reason, made him worth dying for.

*Angels*, we were told, was made by the production team responsible for *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil* and *The Cloning of Joanna May*, by which we were meant to assume a high level of dark comedy and off-the-wall humour, with some conversation-worthy philosophy on the side. But Tony Grisoni is not yet Fay Weldon, and *Angels* was

less New Drama and more *Highway to Heaven* without the schmalz.

The programme did have the good Warren Clarke in it, though, playing a fabulously sinister lothario who, it became clear, was the Devil incarnate against whom all angels must battle. He had the best lines and also the single most chilling one. "It isn't over yet," he snarled, cuddling a gigantic teddy bear.

That can mean only one thing at the end of a television drama — they want to make it into a series. Call me quirky, but I wonder if you can book rooms at the Purgatory Motel?

PATRICK STODDART

## HERITAGE

### Battle on the border

Simon Tait finds the EC preparing to grasp the nettle of art export controls

forward compromises to help both sides. In one camp are the Mediterranean states of Spain, Italy, Greece, France and Portugal. They want a highly protectionist system that will allow even objects of very low market value to be classed as national treasures. Everything from hand-painted backdrops to books more than 100 years old would be protected, along with a huge list of other categories. They also want 30 years (as opposed to the six favoured by Britain) in which to retrieve objects that have been illegally exported.

The danger is that this policy would drive the art market not only from London, as dealers fear, but out of the EC altogether. That is the line that Mellor's civil servants will

be arguing this week.

The northern members — Britain, Germany, Denmark and the Benelux countries — put forward the pragmatic argument, that if such things cannot be protected when there are frontiers, they certainly cannot when the frontiers have gone. Germany is not even convinced it wants a directive.

But Britain does have German support for a looser and much less detailed directive covering only items of fairly high value. Mellor believes that what is precious is not necessarily a national treasure, and it is pointless constructing idealistic rules that are unenforceable.

Britain says that private property rights should be rec-

ognised by all members. This should be good news for those opposed to the listing of national treasures — that are in private hands — an idea that the previous arts minister, Tim Renton, put forward and which is expected to be considered by Mellor next week.

Mellor has offered the southerners a strict timetable for the recovery of illegally exported objects: a month in which to inspect an object after it has been detained; and a year to institute retrieval procedures — instead of the five the protectionists want, and the three Portugal has offered in the draft. Britain believes the interests of the bona fide owner, who will suffer "loss of enjoyment and investment potential", deserve consideration.

Portugal would like the directive agreed at the next internal market meeting of ministers on June 17, before it relinquishes the presidency to Britain. In fact, there is no certainty that there will be a directive by the advent of the single market on January 1.



# The figures in the Bois

Next week, the Queen will open a Henry Moore exhibition in the Bois de Boulogne. June Ducas reports

During the next few weeks, Parisians may be surprised to find a handsome girl with short cropped hair, wearing a pair of navy blue shorts, T-shirt, trainers and a yellow arm band, bicycling around the gardens of the Bagatelle in the Bois de Boulogne. For not only is it "interdit" to cycle in the grounds but forbidden even to walk on the grass.

However, Julie Summers, aged 31, an art historian and assistant curator at the Henry Moore Foundation, has special permission to pedal around the vast park (24 hectares in all) on her mountain bike. Armed with a walkie-talkie and a mobile telephone, she is overseeing a team of ten men as they install 27 gargantuan bronze sculptures for an exhibition called *Moore à Bagatelle* to be opened by the Queen on June 10.

The logistics of moving these larger-than-life works of art from the pastoral fields of Perry Green, Hertfordshire (the Foundation's headquarters) where the sculptor lived and worked, are legion. More like a commanding officer than a curator, Summers has been masterminding the operation for months. A fleet of 12 lorries (the biggest will have a police escort the whole way to Paris) has been hired to transport not only the sculptures but also a specially designed eight-ton rolley, tractor, three-ton gantry, crane and various winches which are needed to put the pieces in position.

At Bagatelle, an additional French crane will hoist sculptures too wide to pass through the gilded Louis XVI gates over the top of those impressive portals. In the park, ramps are being built to ensure that not a blade of grass is harmed as each masterpiece is lodged in its carefully chosen site. In particular, Summers has been instructed to protect the millions of bulbs — daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, narcissi and crocuses — which bloom on the swards every spring.

Once owned by Marie Antoinette's brother-in-law, the Comte d'Artois, the gardens of the Bagatelle in their current form were laid out in the 19th century by Lord Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, as a "jardin à l'anglaise". The parkland has mature trees, sweeping vistas, lakes, grottoes, waterfalls and



Moore, trees and sky: the sculptor's monumental *Reclining Mother and Child* (1975-76) will look at home in Paris this summer

vast meadows: the ideal natural backdrop for Moore's work. His sculptures need changing light and the sky behind them.

As the summer sunlight dims into the gentler haze of autumn, it will be fascinating for the visitor to return several times (the exhibition runs until October) to watch the effect of the changing seasons on both the sculptures and the garden.

Although the artist is best known for his monumental works, it was in fact not until the last 25 years of his life that he could afford to cast his work in grandiose proportions, and in bronze. Money also gave him liberty to buy up acres of abandoned farmland surrounding his home where he first displayed his sculptures in the fields.

He disliked overcrowding, and his works were always set well apart. So he would be pleased to find that the sheer scope of the Bagatelle's demesne allows every sculpture to be studied in isolation.

By a twist of fate, it was a commission for Unesco's building in Paris in 1955 that stimulated

Moore to carve his first colossal figure, one that was larger than anything he had ever done before. Deciding on the subject matter had taken him months of deliberation. He chose a reclining woman, the essential embodiment of the female form and a recurring theme in his artistic vocabulary.

"Eventually, after discarding many preliminary studies, I decided on a reclining figure that seeks to tell no story at all. I wanted to avoid any kind of allegorical interpretation that is now trite," he said. "The figure proved to be the inspiration for many of his later works which are the focus of next month's exhibition."

Few of these have been seen in France before and *Moore à Bagatelle* is expected to attract over 250,000 people. His last important show was 15 years ago at the Orange and the Tulleries. Apart from Unesco's *Reclining Figure*, there are only two other Moore sculptures in France: *Reclining Figure: Festival* at the Musée National d'Art Moderne and *Two Piece Reclining Figure: Cut* in Strasbourg.

Yet Moore had a long association with Paris, culminating two years before he died when François Mitterrand came to Perry Green to give him the Legion of Honour. On receiving it, he repeated three times "J'aimé Paris."

His links began in 1922 while he was still a student at the Royal College of Art. The principal, Sir William Rothenstein, gave him several introductions including one to the Pellerin family in whose house he saw Cézanne's *Les Grandes Baigneuses*. Moore's only child, Mary, says: "It was certainly one of the great, seminal visual experiences of his life. He was bowled over by the sculptural quality, the three dimensionality and the dignity of the painting." Moore himself wrote: "Seeing that picture, for me, was like seeing Charvet Cathedral."

Over the years, Moore acquired a remarkable collection of French drawings and paintings including several by Rodin, Degas, Seurat, Vuillard, and his own Cézanne, *Trois Baigneuses*. By a happy

coincidence, these pictures along with many Moore's personal possessions — furniture, his library of books, ethnic artefacts, pebbles, shells, pieces of flint, maquettes and small sculptures — are now on show at Didier Imbert, a gallery in the Avenue Maugon.

Mounted with the help of Mary Moore, *Moore Intime* is shown in the context of room settings, replicas of those at his home (done by graphics) with computer photographs of views from the windows over Hertfordshire. It is a series of small, intimate glimpses into the artist's mind and eye.

"The juxtaposition of my father's own work with his private art collection makes the visitor stand back and see him afresh," says Mary. "It is quite coincidental that there is a major show at Bagatelle. But I believe they complement each other."

*Moore à Bagatelle*, jointly presented by The City of Paris, the Henry Moore Foundation and the British Council, June 11-Oct 4. *Moore Intime*, Didier Imbert Fine Arts, 19, Avenue Maugon, Paris 75008 (Tel 45-62-10-40). Until July 24.

## Look your last on all things English

Richard Mayne finds that French and German film directors are giving the world stranger and stranger impressions of our way of life

When Robert Burns wrote "O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us / To see ourselves as others see us!" he had no notion that in 200 years' time the cinema would do just that. But he was optimistic in imagining that "It wad frae mony a blunder free us." More likely, it would make us conclude that the "others" in question had defective eyesight.

The lubricious-looking London of G.W. Pabst's *Die Dreigroschenoper* (1931), from Bertolt Brecht's version of *The Beggar's Opera*, was an apt and early example, dripping with more foggy crime than the most extravagant Hollywood set design for Sherlock Holmes. Barely more recognizable, in a different way, was the background of René Clément's 1954 comedy *Monsieur Ripois* (Knave of Hearts), in which Gérard Philipe played a philanderer, all too understandably lost in a town few Londoners could believe was theirs.

Two new films that were on show at the Cannes Festival this year came as a sharp reminder that strange views of Britain are still current abroad. The odder of the two is *Archipel* (Archipelago), a curiously whimsical departure for the mainstream French director Pierre Granier-Deferre.

Set on an island off the south coast of England that some have identified (I think wrongly) as the Isle of Wight, the film centres on an improbable boarding-school for boys, supposedly bilingual, but almost always speaking French. This is "Hamilton School", whose young proprietress Alexandra Hamilton (Claire Nebout) lives in a nearby house on the estate. When 17-year-old Michel (Melvil Poupaud) finds he has nowhere to go during the holidays, Alexandra offers him a room. As the sunny days go by, he grows more and more intrigued by her. But he has two rivals: the school librarian (played by Michel Piccoli), and the good-looking housekeeper (Ludmila Mikael). The former turns out to be a peeping Tom, the latter a lesbian. And when the holidays end, Michel is as virginal as ever — though he has his eye on the blonde school nurse.

Hamilton, I must confess, would have been a fabulous *alma mater*. Outside it looks vaguely Georgian, but with suspiciously 1930s windows, at which Alexandra undresses with the curtains open. Inside, the doors and their handles are unmistakably French: so are most

of the Second Empire ornaments. The Berlitz method applied to decor, perhaps.

The fees must be astronomical: there are only 300 pupils. Admittedly, we meet only two teachers, and there seems an equal paucity of parents — barely a dozen classic cars in the tiny courtyard to collect the boys at the end of term. Strangest of all, Michel's clipped, mocking English friend, a young aristocrat well played by James West (brilliant as Leonard Ross in *Howards End*), describes home life in the family seat in terms nonexistent outside a Feydeau farce.

If Hamilton School is a Gallic dream-world as unreal as Groucho Marx's Huxley College (*Horse Feathers*, 1932), the London lodging-house portrayed by the German director Petra Haffner in *A Demon in My View* is a throwback to Alfred Hitchcock and Mrs Bellie Lowndes.

This is not a remake of their *The Lodger*, whose plot it in effect reverses: its basis is a novel by Ruth Rendell. Did she, I wonder, imagine quite so creepy a domicile area as the film's "Trinity Road"? There are nine streets of that name in Greater London; but this can hardly be one of them.

The owner of the house is Stratford Johns, once of *Z-Cars*, now looking like Michel's Barendum. His long-standing lodger is Anthony Perkins — thin, tatty, thoroughly unattractive, with a faintly brogueish English accent he might have learned from Pierce Brosnan. Joining the household is a German student, played by Uwe Bohm, whose name, so like the Anthony Perkins lodger's that their mail gets mixed up. Assorted exiles from any Hanzi Kureishi movie — black, Chinese, East European, etc. — make up the rest of the claustrophobic cast. But the real duel is between Perkins and Bohm, against the background of Ripper-type murders in backlit streets.

So which is Britain? A cool, effete, country version of *Le Loco Français*? Or an unlikely marriage between Fritz Lang's M and, say, Earl Court? Either, no doubt, more plausible than the London of Aki Kaurismäki's *I Hired a Contract Killer*, with Serge Reggiani selling "French hamburgers" from a stall in a cemetery. But with the Europe of 1992 opening up before us, we shall soon be facing lenses that are more distorted still.

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TOMORROW Jan Morris invites you to join her on a journey to the heart of France

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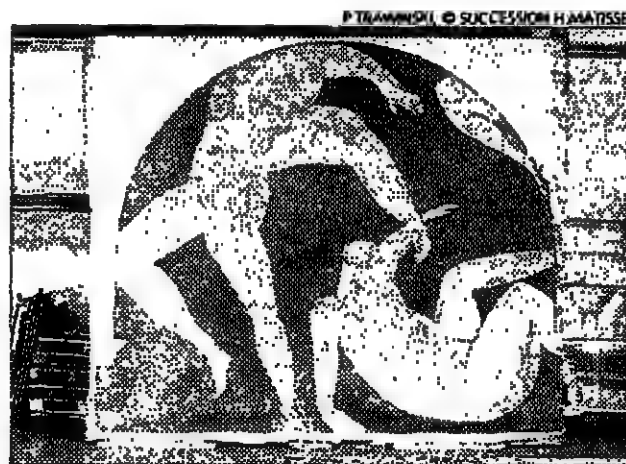
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## A Matisse dances again

Fiona Dunlop on a striking but unsettling art discovery in Paris



Found among the furniture: one panel of the triptych

Few art finds this century can measure up to the scale of the one made a few weeks ago in a Parisian furniture store. The three heirs of the recently deceased art dealer Pierre Matisse (the son of Henri) were sorting out the last odds and ends brought up from their father's villa outside Nice when two long poles wrapped in canvas dropped out of a crate. As the lengths of dusty canvas were unrolled, it soon became apparent that a monumental forgotten work lay before their eyes.

In area it is enormous — three panels measuring a total of 13 x 3.5 metres — while qualitatively it is hard to parallel: the triptych is certainly Matisse's first unfinished attempt at his great mural *Danse* (1932). Originally commissioned for the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania in 1930, *Danse* was formerly known in two versions: the final version installed in Merion and an earlier version worked to the wrong dimensions which eventually found its way to the Musée d'Art Moderne de la

Ville de Paris. What is significant in the newly discovered *Danse* is that here Matisse was still working out his composition by sketching and painting the caving figures, whereas the subsequent two versions were executed using his freshly discovered tech-

nique of working with cut-out paper figures.

Initial disbelief amongst the heirs soon turned to panic. Just signed and sealed was an agreement reached between the Matisse family lawyers and the French state which gave the nation a "dation" of

47 art works in lieu of death duties. The Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Pompidou is gearing up to exhibit the Pierre Matisse "dation" (which apart from 25 works by Matisse includes Cézanne, Rouault, Giacometti, Miro and Dubuffet), opening on June 18. However, the jack-in-the-box appearance of the unknown *Danse* has set heads buzzing. With a value estimated at \$20 million, the dilemma is — who gets it?

It is temporarily housed in a Parisian studio, still bearing the scars of its 60-year sleep in a cellar. For taxation purposes a museum expert has to put a price on it.

When Matisse turned increasingly to the cut-out technique, the great colourist wrote: "I have penetrated to the essential and abstract nature of forms and I have preserved the subject which, formerly, I had presented in too complex a manner." The abandoned first version of *Danse* may have appeared too complex to Matisse himself but it is certain that France will be loth to let go.

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Special requests should be entered into the appropriate section on the booking form. Special telephone lines will be open for any queries at the reservation centre from June 10, which is the earliest day for booking, and details will appear in *The Times*.

**THE TIMES** **PASSPORT TO** **France** **TOKEN 2**

**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

● **HÉLIO OTICICA:** A member of the Neo-Concrete art and poetry movement in the early Fifties and one of the leading figures of the Brazilian avant-garde, Oticica's work includes geometric paintings, environmental sculptures and objects using fragile materials from everyday life in the slums.

Joa de Paume, Place de la Concorde, Paris. Tel (33 1) 4703 250, June 9-Aug 23.

● **COSI' FAN TUTTE:** A co-production by the Teatro Nacional de San Carlos of Lisbon and the Théâtre du Châtelet receives its Paris premiere at the end of this month under the direction of John Eliot Gardiner. With the English Baroque Soloists and the Monteverdi Choir.

Théâtre du Châtelet, 2 rue Edouard Colonne, Paris. Tel: (33 1) 40282840. June 26, 28, 30, July 2, 5.

● **EXPO 92** This week in Seville, the Metropolitan Opera House of New York offers Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Plácido Domingo leading the cast, and Aprile Millo, Juan Pons and Florence

Quivar; conductor James Levine (June 5); while on June 4 the orchestra and choir of the Met perform in Beethoven's *Fidelio* in a concert version, with Christof Perick conducting.

Teatro de la Maestranza, Paseo de Cristóbal Colón, Seville. Tel: (34 54) 4560899.

● **HOLLAND FESTIVAL:** The festival includes performances by the Netherlands Dance Theatre and the National Ballet of works by the Dutch choreographer Hans van Manen. Also taking place will be performances of the operas *Prometeo* by Luigi Nono and the premiere of Karlheinz Stockhausen's latest opera, *Dienstag aus Licht*.

Kleine-Garmanplantsoen 21, Amsterdam. Tel: (3120) 627 6566. Until June 30.

● **TWELFTH NIGHT:** Jérôme Savary's production of Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identity and identical twins.

Théâtre National de Chaillot, 1 place du Trocadéro, Paris. Tel: (33 1) 47278115. Until June 20.

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An actress and a historian remember Mary Wollstonecraft. Linda Grant learns about a campaigner for women's rights

# Two centuries of sisterhood

Historian Sheila Rowbotham visited the grave of Mary Wollstonecraft in a little churchyard near St Pancras, north London, last year. She found it nearly derelict. She wrote to Camden council and to Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, who is a Camden resident, and he began a letter-writing campaign.

The undertakers who had buried Wollstonecraft were a family business still in existence. When the undertakers heard of the campaign, they paid for the restoration.

Who is Mary Wollstonecraft? "Every generation discovers her and the next generation forgets her," Ms Rowbotham says. Twenty years ago, *Vindication of the Rights of Women* was required reading for feminists. As an 18th-century political thinker and sexual radical she inspired the women who read Germaine Greer and wanted to read more.

Two decades later her champions, including the actress Francesca

exciting. It was written in only six weeks in 1791 in a really tumultuous time when everybody was debating everything.

The 1770s and 1780s were turbulent decades. In Europe and America revolutions were taking place. In Britain, the Romantic movement was feeding artistically on the sense of personal and political freedom that gripped Europe. Wordsworth and Coleridge, still young men, allied themselves with the overthrow of the French aristocracy and Shelley considered himself a revolutionary.

Campaigns to enfranchise the working man were beginning in England. The *Vindication* was the first work to argue for women's emancipation, without which, Wollstonecraft argued, one could never have a just society.

Although she alluded to votes for women, she believed that education had to come first. Ms Rowbotham says: "Some women in the aristocracy were influential, but she thought

that the kind of power they exercised was the power of the bedroom, being influential behind the scenes, and she thought that kind of power was very demeaning. She wanted women to have power in their own right, to take part in the making of a better society, to be useful rather than parasitic."

Wollstonecraft, described by a contemporary as the most daring Englishwoman of her time, had an extraordinary life. In 1792, the year the book was published, she travelled alone to Paris to see for herself the effects of the French Revolution and witnessed the execution of the king.

As passionate in her love life as in her thinking, she fell disastrously in love with Gilbert Imlay, an American adventurer, by whom she had an illegitimate child. Imlay broke her heart, betrayed her and left her, and she attempted suicide.

In torment, she journeyed to Scandinavia where she rallied to produce imaginative and socially observant travel writing.

On her return to England, she opened a school for girls in Newington Green, Hackney, east London, to put into action her belief in the education of daughters.

In 1797 she married Godwin and gave birth to another daughter, Mary, who eventually married the poet Shelley and wrote the horror story *Frankenstein*. A few months after Mary's birth, her mother died of septicaemia, one of the complications of childbirth at the time. She was 37.

Some historians have argued that she is as important as Thomas Paine, whose *Rights of Man* influenced the thinkers of the American Revolution. To others, she is one of the key figures of the Romantic circle of poets and painters. The feminists of the 1970s respected her for speaking out on women's rights, and at the same time she was the subject of biographical fascination because of her unconventional lifestyle.

The unlikely friendship of Ms Annis, an actress who lives in Kensington, west London, and Ms Rowbotham, a feminist historian living in Hackney, goes back to that period when both attended a meeting on women's liberation at Ruskin College, Oxford. Although Ms



In memory: Francesca Annis, left, and Sheila Rowbotham will be together to mark the bicentenary of Mary Wollstonecraft's book

Annis has never been one of the publicly political actresses such as Glenda Jackson or Julie Christie, in her twenties she had rejected her strict, conservatively Catholic upbringing.

"She says: 'I became a hippie and found it was not enough. I wanted to be more in control of my life and I was curious about things. At Ruskin I met women who came from such widely different backgrounds and joined a study group on the family.'"

"Although I stopped being active in the women's movement when I had three children in quick succession, I have never opted out of my personal commitment."

Ms Annis was drawn to feminism by her friend Sally Alexander, a former actress who was then married to the actor John Thaw. Their daughter Abigail Thaw, who appears in *The Bill*, will also read on Sunday along with Juliet Stevenson, Harriet Walter, Fiona Shaw and writers Paul Foot and Richard Holmes, a biographer of Shelley. Another reader is Ms Rowbotham's friend Jacqueta May, who plays her fictional counterpart, a women's studies lecturer, in *EastEnders*.

Both Ms Annis and Ms Rowbotham are concerned that the rebellious decades of their own activism have given way to cynicism and despair.

"I wanted to do this because I want to be part of women's celebration. It is uplifting, it is extremely good for the soul," Ms Annis says. "I do not think there are movements that young people can be part of any more, apart from animal rights. They are all isolated and separated. Being part of a movement like this

fascinating because it brings together people whom you would not normally meet.

"I am determined not to drop being a feminist because it has done so much, particularly for a younger generation of women who do not even realise what changes have taken place in our lifetimes."

When Ms Rowbotham started to do publicity for the reading, she discovered that the name of Mary Wollstonecraft meant nothing to most of the people she contacted. Two hundred years after the publication of her most famous book, her name still needs to be vindicated.

● *Vindication of the Rights of Women* is published by Everyman and Penguin. A Dangerous Reputation is at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. June 7, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 and £1.

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## AND BRIEFLY

### Earth women

WHILE attention focuses on the predominantly male politicians at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, "women's issues" will not be neglected. A "Women's Tent" will be highlighting a "Women's Action Agenda" approved by 1,500 women's groups from 83 countries — including Britain's National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), representing 200 UK groups. There will be panels, workshops and activities on the agenda, which contains proposals in all areas of development from reproductive rights to technology. Bernadette Valley, of the Women's Environmental Network, a member of the NAWO, says that although women are "producing 80 per cent of food in Africa and doing over 80 per cent of the shopping in Europe they are often the last to be consulted in decisions on environment and development."

#### Build it simple

A DOLL'S house can cost hundreds, if not thousands of pounds. Enthusiasts with more time than money might prefer to invest in *Build A Doll's House* (published by Batsford, £15.99) by the owner of The Dolls House in Covent Garden, Michal Morse. It demonstrates how to make even quite complicated houses out of simple materials and includes detailed lists of relevant suppliers, publications and fairs.

#### Going potty

SOME of the best-preserved and rarest items of 17th century Chinese blue and white porcelain from the Vung Tau Cargo discovered off the coast of South Vietnam in 1989 will be among the fragile objects on show at the International Ceramics Fair and Seminar at the Park Lane Hotel in Piccadilly, London W1, from June 12 to 15.

There will also be contemporary works in porcelain. 19th century Minto majolica ware and 18th century Dutch Delft. Admission is £8, including the handbook, and on each day there will be lectures which must be booked in advance. Details from: ICPS Ltd., booking office, 38 Burlington Gardens, Old Bond Street, London W1X 1LE (071-734 5491).

VICTORIA MCKEE

## Where are the missing?

A fresh mission to discover the fate of lost Vietnam servicemen may relieve the suffering of wives



United by war: Carol and Jim Hickerson, with their children Jenny and Jim junior

Nancy Nystrom refers to her husband in the present tense, although legally she is considered a military widow. Squadron Commander Bruce Nystrom has been missing since December 1966 when his US Navy aircraft was lost over North Vietnam somewhere in the Red River Delta, south of Hanoi. He was 39 years old, she was the mother of three teenagers, and their 18th wedding anniversary was a few months away.

In the 26 years since, there has been no solid information about him — no sightings, no remains — just a brief report out of Hanoi the day after his disappearance, proclaiming the capture of an unnamed American "war criminal" in the general area in which he went down. It marked the beginning of more than two decades of uncertainty and condemned his wife to what she describes as "quasi status".

"I feel I am neither fish nor fowl, neither wife nor widow. It's as though where Bruce is concerned I am in a state of suspended animation, although in every other area I have got on with my life."

Despite her "very busy and productive life" Mrs Nystrom has been under pressure from others to close this unresolved chapter by re-marrying.

"My reply is that I have not met anyone who has come remotely close to Bruce. But after 26 years apart, I don't know what he would be like now and I have guilty feelings about how I could possibly want him to have survived all these years in unspeakable conditions just so that I can have him home again. He won't be the same person and neither will I."

Although Sgt Cdr Nystrom was declared legally dead in 1978 under the Carter administration, he remains one of 2,266 Americans unaccounted for in Indochina. According to the US Defence Intelligence Agency, out of 1,574 first-hand live sighting reports of missing servicemen received between 1975 and the end of April this year, 97 of them are unresolved. It has proved to be a statistic too compelling for America to ignore and last week a team of 60 US military and intelligence officers entered Vietnam

on a search and retrieval mission led by Senator John Kerry, the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

Scouring seven provinces, they are investigating "the 97" — comprising 50 alleged "prisoners" and 47 "non-prisoners" — and aim to achieve the fullest possible accounting and repatriation of MIAs, alive and dead, since the end of the war. Their hopes are founded on increased co-operation from their former enemy following an international agreement over Cambodia which had been the main sticking point between America and Vietnam. As part of its step-by-step process for normalising relations, on April 29 the United States lifted its economic embargo with Vietnam on basic foods, goods and non-governmental humanitarian aid.

Help has also come from an unexpected quarter. The Russian government pledged its full co-operation in efforts to seek information about MIAs and acknowledges that American deserters and possibly POWs were moved to the Soviet Union after the Vietnam War (as they were to

China) although there is no evidence that any remain. Little wonder then that wives such as Nancy Nystrom view this latest development pragmatically. "I suppose I am guardedly optimistic about the future but I believe we cannot give the Vietnamese what they want before we have accomplished our own goal."

Her words are echoed by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia which represents more than 3,800 POW/MIA relatives. The league is clearly disappointed, however, that not a single American has been accounted for since the United States trade initiative in April. Its director of operations, Mary Backley, adds: "It is our position that the MIA issue must be resolved before the full lifting of the US embargo on Vietnam."

Carol Hickerson re-married seven years after her first husband, Stephen Paul Hickerson, a Marine Corps helicopter pilot, then 27, was shot down over Laos in June 1967. She considers herself lucky in that she did receive further information about the fate of her first husband. One of Stephen's crew, listed as missing for three years, survived the highly-classified mission which involved the rescue of some wounded Green Beret army personnel.

They became engaged when Stephen Hanson's status was changed from MIA to "presumed dead" which allows wives like her to remarry without the added pain of divorce, simplifies inheritance and reduces government benefits.

Marri Trafford, whose father, Lieutenant Francis McGouldrick, a flight navigator, went missing in Laos on December 13, 1968, says that her mother, who died 12 years ago, always maintained he was alive and raised her four daughters to believe the same. "She told us one day he was going to come home and until we heard differently, that's what we were to hang on to."

Ms Trafford, a 28-year-old mother of two living in Columbus, Ohio, continues to wear an MIA bracelet inscribed with her father's name, rank and age and the date he was lost. "My worst memory is attending a memorial service at Washington DC organised by the Carter administration to commemorate the missing men. There is a stone with my father's name on it but, of course, there are no remains. We were terribly bitter as we felt that President Carter was trying to purge the Vietnam experience from the nation and to be rid of us and our questions. He had our missing men declared dead, mistakenly hoping it would shut us up."

Her father was on a reconnaissance mission when his plane was involved in a mid-air collision with another American aircraft. A survivor from the other crew says he saw a parachute issue from Lt McGouldrick's aircraft but whether it belonged to him or the pilot remains unknown.

"If my father's remains were to come home our fight will finally be over," Ms Trafford says. "But for the rest of our lives we'll wonder about his fate. Did he die in the crash? Was he a POW and if so, for how many years? Did he suffer? I don't expect miracles — most families don't. An end to the uncertainty is what I truly want, or failing that, the knowledge that every MIA who could feasibly be accounted for, is accounted for."

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DONNA LEIGH-KILE

Japan's 100-year-old twin sisters have a hit CD



Centenarian stars: Kin (meaning gold) and Gin (silver), models of a vigorous old age

Most would agree that glamour, youth, even just a full set of teeth would be necessary to become a pop-music idol in Japan, where teenage stars breeze in and out of fashion in the blink of an eye. But two newcomers to the scene have defied all the unwritten rules. They are Kin and Gin, Japan's celebrated 100-year-old twins, who possess no more than five teeth between them and eschew modish lacy miniskirts in favour of traditional indigo kimonos and wooden Japanese clogs.

Their unorthodox appearance, raspy voices and understandable habit of dropping off to sleep in mid-interview have not stopped them from starring in television commercials, a television soap opera, and a chat show. They have also recorded their own CD, "Kin-cha to Gin-cha" (Little Miss Gold and Little Miss Silver) which has sold more than a hundred thousand copies.

The secret of their success lies in the fact that these charming and loquacious centenarian starlets have emerged as the feisty symbols of Japan's ageing society. With the longest life expectancy in the world (82 years for women and 76 for men) and one of the lowest birthrates, Japan's population is rapidly growing grey.

It was only a matter of time before some unsuspecting nonagenarian was hauled out blinking in front of the television cameras to represent the

## Little but large

super-elderly and become the new manifestation of the "ageing boom". Kin and Gin have risen to the occasion and fulfilled their role with gusto, keeping starlets, some eight or nine decades their junior, snapping fruitlessly at their heels in the pop charts.

They were discovered last September when the mayor of Nagoya dropped by on "respect for the aged day" to congratulate them on their venerable age. Word of their vigour and wit spread fast and soon Duskin, a manufacturer of dusters and kitchen towels, was knocking on the door wanting to make a commercial to implant its telephone number, which is 100-100, firmly in the minds of the nation.

Last December the twins made their national television debut in a 15-second Duskin commercial. The tiny starlets, who both tip the scales at five stones and are 4ft 11in tall, were soon starring in an advertisement for make-up. Then came the chat-shows, the CD, the T-shirts, the dolls, the mugs and posters.

Japan's tabloid newspapers and sensationalist weekly magazines, normally devoted

to accounts of teenyboppers' tantrums and raunchy descriptions of sumo wrestlers' sex lives, have made a mass transfer of loyalties to cover the domestic antics of these two elderly ladies. Both are widowed great grandmothers, born on August 1, 1892, when samurai warriors were still to be seen walking around their home town. By the traditional Japanese reckoning, which counts a baby as one-year-old at birth, the twins are already 100 years old.

The Japanese government has been constantly troubled by scare stories in the press concerning the perennial question of what they are going to do with all their elderly people. Barely a year goes by without another rumour that the government is about to buy the Faroe Islands or Majorca to use as a dumping ground for all its grey-haired dependants.

But now Kin and Gin have come to the rescue as the acceptable manifestation of Japan's "ageing boom". According to Mitsuo Ueno of the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, millions of people apparently rejoice in the alertness and wit of the centenarian twins and are developing aspirations to be as bright as them when they grow older. "People are getting nervous about the greying of society," he says. "But the twins are so full of life and have become an inspiration to everyone."

JOANNA PITMAN



# A break in the maternal line

'Eve', the 200,000-year-old African woman, is not the mother of man, according to recent reassessment of the data. Nigel Hawkes looks at the evidence

Eve is dead. The hypothesis that we are all descended from an ancestral mother who lived 200,000 years ago in Africa has been demolished. A statistical analysis of the data has shown that the results were dictated by the order in which the information was fed into the computer.

Professor Alan Templeton, a geneticist at Washington University in St. Louis has shown that the method used by the late Allan Wilson and his Berkeley colleagues in 1987 to conclude that all humans are descended from a single African mother was critically flawed.

The "Eve" or "Out of Africa" hypothesis has been enormously influential in the five years since Wilson's group announced that their study of differences in mitochondrial DNA from 147 people around the world showed a lineage going back to a single female ancestor who lived between 140,000 and 290,000 years ago in southern Africa.

The Wilson group chose DNA from the mitochondria, microscopic bodies which form the power plants in cells, because, unlike the DNA in the nucleus of the cell, it descends only through the female line. We all possess the same mitochondrial DNA as our mothers, except for small changes that occur at a predictable rate. By studying the variations in the mitochondrial DNA of their sample and making assumptions about the rate of change, Mr Wilson's group believed they were able to trace back to the simplest family tree. This tree led, they said, to a woman in Africa.

According to Professor Templeton's study, however, more than 10,000 simpler family trees are also compatible with Mr Wilson's data. Some include mixed African and non-African basic groups, "thereby invalidating the original rationale for an African origin".

To trace the descent, Wilson's team used a computer program, called PAUP, designed to give a "maximum parsimony tree" — the simplest line of descent. As a benchmark, samples of mitochondrial DNA from chimpanzees were also taken, on the assumption that human and ape lines diverged five million years ago, and the comparison was used to establish rate of change of the DNA.

Recent discoveries suggest that this assumption was also wrong, with the split between humans and apes actually taking place longer ago.

Some archaeological data appears



Early days: the skills of Peking man indicate a continuity that is unlikely to have been inherited from 'Eve'. Illustration by Maurice Wilson

to support Mr Wilson's thesis, including claims of early modern humans before 100,000 years ago at Border Cave and Klasies river mouth in South Africa, and the general view that the ultimate origin of early ancestors such as *Australopithecus* lay in sub-Saharan Africa.

Some archaeologists have questioned the thesis, however, arguing that the implication that all human culture prior to 200,000 years ago was a dead end does not accord with the continuity of technology, economy, and ecological adaptations seen in regions such as China.

The discovery of hominid remains such as the *Kanapi Australopithecine*, dated to 5.5 million years ago, also suggests that the date chosen for the split between apes and human ancestors is much too recent.

In a study yet to be published, Professor Templeton agrees with the archaeological findings. Reassessment of the mitochondrial DNA data indicates that the geographical origin of the common ancestor was not necessarily in Africa, he says, because this was based on an "invalid analysis" using inappropriate statistical tests and sampling methods

biased in favour of an African root.

In addition, Mr Wilson's group erred in using too narrow a timespan: even if every human DNA sequence was completely known, its rate of change accurately calibrated, and the molecular clock governing the rate of mutation functioning perfectly, there would still be random error caused by genetic drift. Application of corrective formulae, even with such assumptions of perfection, would give a date 524,000 or even 772,000 years ago for Eve.

Professor Templeton also believes that the assumption of a constant molecular clock is "of dubious validity", because rare favourable mutations of DNA can spread rapidly through the population as the result of Darwinian natural selection. Genetic diversity of

African populations therefore reflects the time since the last such favourable mutation, not the age of the population itself.

The argument that Eve's lineage was unique, replacing all other possible family trees, is also invalid.

Professor Templeton says. Studies of gene flow in species such as the rapidly-breeding fruit fly *Drosophila* suggest that a number of additional factors would be needed for the contention to be true, but these would be incompatible with the observed data on mitochondrial DNA. A model

in which modern humans evolved from many different centres would, in contrast, fit all the evidence.

The implication of these criticisms is that Eve could have lived more than 750,000 years ago, not necessarily in Africa, and without genetic isolation of her descendants from other human groups. "The 'Out of Africa' hypothesis is inconsistent with the properties of the mitochondrial DNA family tree itself, and with the overall pattern of the nuclear DNA data," Professor Templeton says.



Rethink: Professor Templeton

"Erroneous inferences were made because of the inadequacy of the analyses, statistical tests, and sampling designs. When these errors are corrected, the Eve hypothesis is left with no supporting genetic evidence," he says.

With Eve banished, the origin of modern humans seems likely to lie in evolution from our ancestor *Homo erectus*, who did indeed originate in Africa, but some 1.6 million years ago. *Homo erectus* had spread into Asia by at least 900,000 years ago and had reached China within half a million years.

Our own subspecies, *Homo sapiens*, could be as much as 160,000 years old. Whether we emerged from archaic *Homo sapiens* in North Africa, the Middle East, Asia, or in a broad zone across the Old World is one of the crucial and most exciting questions facing scientists today.

## Vicious and black circle

Depression may lead to the brain becoming more susceptible to it

Dr Robert Post, a research psychiatrist at the US National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland, has shown how the brain can become sensitised to depression. He thinks that depression and manic-depression can produce changes in the brain, leaving a patient susceptible to further attacks.

Clinical depression has become a costly health problem. Every year in Britain several million people suffer some degree of partially disabling depression. In the United States the figure is 15 million.

The condition can be life threatening: depression is almost always a factor in suicide. It has been found that people who commit suicide have abnormally low levels of a chemical SHIAA in the fluid that bathes the brain and spinal cord. This chemical is linked to the synthesis of serotonin which has a major role in normal brain chemistry.

Dr Post and other researchers have accumulated evidence which shows that once a patient suffers a severe episode of depression, the threshold for the next attack is lowered. Eventually, a patient becomes so sensitised that periods of depression occur without apparent cause.

If, as Dr Post believes, the brain does become sensitised to depression, the implications are significant for treatment of the condition. Doctors would not only have to alleviate symptoms but also prevent patients becoming sensitised.

Dr Post points out that patients can fail to respond to the drug lithium when taken for repeated bouts of depression. He concludes that changes in the brain, which have been detected in experimental work, prevent the once effective drug from working.

Current antidepressant drugs used in treatment are effective in 70 per cent of cases. These drugs work on the chemical messengers which make contact with sites on nerve cells within the brain. But depression seems to involve more than signals passing through networks of nerve cells within the brain.

For this reason, present drugs are far from being a final solution. Scientists in the field say that more than the

development of new drugs is needed. Dr Pedro Delgado of Yale University, at a recent conference on depression, said: "Before we can understand the illness and what the medications are doing, we have to understand more about the regulation of stress responses and mood states in normal people."

Many scientists in the field agree with this. Dr Post says we must try to understand depressive and manic behaviour at the level of genes. We must understand how the genes which set in motion the chemistry causing depression are triggered.

"In laboratory experiments we've found that stress can turn on genes to produce substances that initiate long-term cell alterations," he says. "And repeated stress causes these changes to spread throughout the brain."

How do these structural and chemical changes come about? The answer is probably "stress hormones", which research

'We have to understand more about the regulation of stress'

indicates are secreted by most people and animals in response to long-term stress. "The excess secretion of one of these hormones, cortisol," Dr Post says, "is the most robust biological concomitant of depression. It shows up in about 50 per cent of cases, especially severe ones."

So that's the target: understanding the basic biology. One idea at present, on which much research is focused, is that all forms of depression share the same basic chemical pathway, despite the many causes of the conditions. If this is so, and the chemical pathway can be identified, then new, more effective drugs could be designed specifically.

However, present drugs do not all work chemically in the same way within the brain. This makes some researchers doubtful about the "common chemical pathway" idea for all depression. Research at Yale University supports the view that there may be at least two pathways. But everyone seems to agree that the ultimate treatment can only be developed once depression is understood at the level of genes and the long-term changes in structure and chemistry that the genes can bring about.

EDWARD ASHPOLE

A curved mirror in a new design of binoculars means viewers can see twice as much as through conventional ones

Looking through binoculars can be tiresome for sports enthusiasts and spectacle wearers.

The former can only see a small slice of the action through binoculars, and they often prefer to peer at a race with a naked eye rather than fail to see peripheral runners.

The latter, have difficulty focusing through binoculars when wearing their glasses, and so tend to take their spectacles off in order to use the binoculars.

According to professor Mike Freeman of Denbigh, Cwyd the reason for these shortcomings is that binocular design has remained virtually unchanged for 100 years.

"The design needed to be modernised," he said, "so after four years of experimentation, I came up with the idea of using a curved mirror inside

## Getting the bigger, closer picture



VIEW THROUGH CONVENTIONAL BINOCULARS



ENHANCED VIEW THROUGH FREEMAN'S DESIGN

Full view: the doubling of the image's breadth with a curved mirror makes it easier to follow fast moving action

the binoculars to bend the light and position the image." This was a new departure from the prisms traditionally used for this purpose, but the mirror has the advantage of significantly widening the field of view.

"Prisms fold light four times — twice vertically and twice horizontally — thereby restricting the field of view," Professor Freeman said. "My mirror only bends the light twice — once vertically towards the image, and back again verti-

cally towards the eye. This way the horizontal dimension is unaffected, enabling users to see twice as much as through conventional binoculars. As a result, a doubling of the image's breadth makes it easier to follow fast moving action."

Dispensing with prisms has a further advantage. As prisms are heavy, replacing them with mirrors has reduced binoculars' weight by 20 per cent, thereby making them more comfortable to carry. Spectacle wearers will bene-

fit from the design because the eye piece is shorter. This means that there is more space to accommodate the glasses. Users can hold the binoculars in the right place without removing their glasses because they do not have to position these binoculars as close as the conventional ones.

Professor Freeman hopes that this will be the first of a new generation of binoculars to be developed at his company, Optics and Vision, in Cwyd. The sports model will magnify images four to five times their normal size. He expects that it will be followed by a second version designed for ornithologists and yachtsmen. That will magnify images up to ten times their normal size, making bird and boat spotting much easier.

IOLA SMITH

## Trees fail gas test

TREES may not be the answer to global warming, new research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee suggests. After growing 30 saplings for three years in air with raised levels of carbon dioxide, the researchers, led by Dr Richard Norby, found that no more carbon had been captured by the plants. Instead, the trees had responded by producing fewer leaves and increasing their fine root networks. Dr Norby says: "The results clearly cast serious doubts on the proposal that some people have been making that tree growth is going to be spectacularly increased as carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and the ensuing greenhouse effect."

**Oil cuts the pain**  
ARTHRITIS sufferers who take fish oil need fewer painkillers, according to a study by Dr Jill Belch at Ninewells Medical School, Dundee. Earlier studies showed that fish oil as a dietary supplement can result in fewer tender and swollen joints. Dr Belch reports that 60 per cent of rheumatoid arthritis patients taking five to ten grams of fish oil a day for at least three months can reduce or stop their painkillers.

**The grey gene**  
TWO scientists at the Medical Research Council's human genetics unit have discovered the gene that makes a strain of mice go grey. Ruth Johnson and Ian Jackson suggest in the June issue of *Nature Genetics* that the gene may help to explain cases of premature greying in humans, too. They found an alteration in the gene that makes a protein called tyrosinase-related protein 1, whose effect may be to alter the ways cells store the dark melanin pigment. The same genetic defect may operate in families prone to going grey when young, as well as in the

less common condition vitiligo, which lightens dark skin.

**New view**  
ENGINEERS are being asked to put their views on the profession's future in Britain to a working group chaired by the aeronautical engineer Sir James Hamilton. He is gathering opinions about the form of a new umbrella body for engineering originally proposed by Sir John Fairclough, including its scope and its



In the chair: Sir James

relation to existing institutions. Views should be sent to Sir James, c/o the Engineering Council, 10 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3ER.

**Tiny transistors**  
IBM scientists in New York have produced the world's smallest transistors. The devices are 20 times smaller than any previous transistor. The active areas are a 75,000th of the cross-section of a human hair. The discovery, the researchers say, should enable more powerful chips to be made, able to store four billion bits of information.

**Fast answers**  
THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved an Aids test that can give a result in ten minutes and has been more than 99 per cent accurate in clinical trials. The test, developed by Murex Corp, has been passed for use on individuals, can be done in a doctor's office or clinic by people with minimal training, and requires no special equipment.

## Crucial genetic information pooled

Ranchers who move animals from region to region may be threatening the genetic diversity of wildlife

As game ranching in Kenya expands and the increase in human populations forces wildlife into isolated islands, the National Museum of Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Service have embarked on a wildlife genetics programme to preserve the genetic diversity of the country's wild animals.

The programme began when scientists at both organisations realised that the genetic diversity of the country's wildlife was threatened by new management policies that regard animals as an economic resource, and by social pressures that regard them as pests.

Game ranchers are now allowed to raise, kill and sell the meat of species such as zebra, giraffe and gazelle that are not endangered, while

human populations increasingly demand that wild animals should be corralled into fenced national parks, to protect their crops and their domestic livestock.

Since both developments will force wildlife managers to increase their manipulation of animal resources, they need crucial genetic information if long-term conservation is to be successful, according to molecular biologist Rashid Aman, the director of the National Museums' wildlife genetics department.

In the case of game ranching, animals may be moved about from ranch to ranch to increase or diminish supplies. Wildlife managers need to know if animals from two different regions of the country are separate subspecies, and to decide if they want to maintain

these subspecies or mix them. Genetic susceptibility and resistance to disease are particularly important.

As more wild animals are kept captive inside wildlife parks "we stand to lose our genetic diversity", says Jim Else, deputy director of scientific services at the Kenya Wildlife Service. Managers will need to know the genetic diversity of a population to decide whether it is necessary to increase the gene pool by cross-breeding.

So far, the programme is small and has proved controversial. Tissue samples of elephants, wild dogs, cheetahs and several bovid species have been collected, but safari operators have complained about the wildlife service's dart guns used to immobilise the animals.



Under threat? many ranchers believe Kenya's wildlife is solely an economic resource

One elephant expert, Cynthia Moss, said that the noise of the guns had frightened elephants in Amboseli National Park so much that she had not been able to get close to them for days.

The scale of the task is also daunting, with limited funding and only two scientists working on the project. Dr Aman is undaunted. His long-term goals include applying reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer and preservation of cells in a genetic bank as an insurance against possible catastrophes.

JANE STEVENS







Christopher Warman sees the hotels market recovering from a bad year, stimulated by a trend towards leasing agreements

# Room for growth in hotel market

The European hotel industry, which suffered badly in 1991, is showing signs of recovery, according to a report by the management consultants Pannell Kerr Forster Associates in a survey of 248 hotels in 25 European cities.

Last year, the global recession and the lingering effects of the Gulf war brought a sharp fall in occupancy levels, from 70.9 per cent in 1990 to 62.8 per cent, the lowest recorded since the survey began in 1987. Only Birmingham and Warsaw showed a slight improvement.

The view that 1991 was an aberration is confirmed by Frank Croston, director of Pannell Kerr Forster, who says "early signs that most cities appear to be experiencing a recovery in 1992".

"Eurocity Survey 1992", sponsored by the investment bank Salomon Brothers and the international property advisers Jones Lang Wootton, shows that despite an 11.5 per cent decrease in occupancy compared with 1990, Berlin retained its top position in occupancy levels with 73.2 per cent. Only seven cities were able to achieve an

increase in room revenue. Among them, Berlin, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw benefited in particular from political reforms.

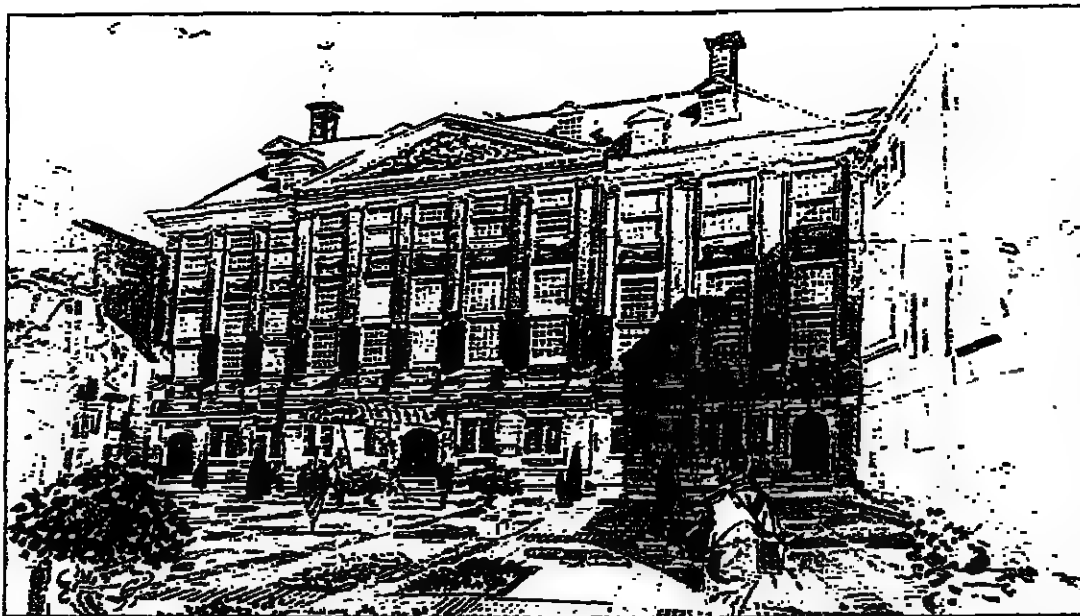
In room revenue yield, the most important determinant of performance, Paris ranked as the most profitable city, achieving £79. London slipped from second to fourth position, as room revenue fell from £78 to £65. Paris remains the most expensive city for full rate paying customers at £156 for a single room, followed by London at £135. London's room occupancy was down from 74.2 per cent in 1990 to 64.7 per cent last year.

Kay Dymally, partner of Jones Lang Wootton International Hotels, commented that although few capital transactions had been seen in 1992, the market had become more active through the emerging trend towards lease operating agreements and performance-related management contracts, which limit the owners' risk but provide representation to the operators with minimal financial outlay. "Leasing is growing in popularity across Europe as operators find it more difficult to fund new development

and owners seek a fairer deal in balancing risk and reward."

Jones Lang Wootton recently completed advising BAA Hotels on the leasing of three hotels in the United Kingdom. The 474-bed room Gatwick Sterling Hotel has been leased to Forte plc to operate under the Crest banner, the 397-bedroom Heathrow Sterling Hotel has been leased to Hilton International to fill a gap in its international network and the 249-room Stansted Harlequin Hotel, at present the only hotel at Stansted Airport, has also been leased to Hilton International, to be operated as a Hilton National.

Jones Lang Wootton says London continues to be a prime location for international-quality hotel chains presently unrepresented. "It is still highly probable that there remains a small number of investors prepared to invest in well-located, good-quality London property." Japanese investment has fallen and there is virtually no new investment from Sweden, but German, Dutch and Italian institutions are beginning to look outside their domestic markets.



Dutch touch: the Grand Hotel, Amsterdam, a former town hall, sold by BAA Hotels to the French Compagnie Internationale Phoenix Hotels through Jones Lang Wootton, opened last month

Pannell Kerr Forster is cautiously optimistic, commenting that London remains a key tourist destination, although the volume of visitors depends on factors such as international recession and exchange rates.

During 1991, there was a weakening of the dollar against sterling, a war and a recession in the United States, all of which contributed to a decline in North American visitors to Britain. "London is an enduring

tourist and business destination. Although temporarily shaken last year, its underlying strength should not be doubted - 1992 will nevertheless continue to be a difficult time for London's hoteliers, although the outcome of the recent general election will boost confidence."

The agency Christie & Co has noticed an upturn in interest since the general election. Its London hotels department reports that con-

tracts have been exchanged on two hotels and 13 offers received on other hotels in Greater London. Gerald Nolan, London corporate hotels director, said: "Hotels are now proving to be good investments because prices are more competitive than they have been for a long time."

"Eurocity Survey 1992" is available from Pannell Kerr Forster Associates, New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA, at £500

## MARKET MOVES

## Railway restaurant

THREE restored railway carriages may seem an odd business opportunity, but these, with echoes of the Orient Express, provide a first-class restaurant.

The coaches include Leona, a 1927 Pullman coach that was used on Sir Winston Churchill's funeral train in 1965; Linda, a Mark I saloon which is now a wine car and piano saloon; and a kitchen car adapted from a former Royal Mail coach. Christie & Co's Ipswich office is asking £150,000 for the business if it is purchased in its present location alongside the railway line at Epsom station, Essex. Alternatively, the coaches could be transported elsewhere.

## Food foothold

AN international food and wine district is being built in the centre of Paris on the right bank of the River Seine, providing offices and a permanent exhibition for about a thousand companies to offer their wares.

The project, by the Paris based Euro-Developpement company, is backed by Tramel Crow International, and is claimed to be Europe's first such centre.

The centre, New Bercy, is offering British and international companies the opportunity to gain a foothold in the European food and wine market.

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## OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD

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## BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (42932) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (4250135)  
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series (8701338)  
9.30 Between Ourselves. Cagney Business. A documentary about Lyndon Jones and his prize-winning birds (50715)  
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6559999) 10.05 Playdays (s) (4772932) 10.25 Stoppit and Tidyp. Cartoon (s) (6552086)  
10.35 Discovering Animals. Otters and seals (s) (4822086)  
11.00 News, regional news and weather (9373154) 11.05 The Travel Show. Guides. The Islands of Malta and Gozo (s) (Ceefax) (2998767) 11.35 The Hogan Family (4185680)  
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7427048) 12.05 Gold. Man's exploitation of this precious metal (s) (8957338) 12.55 Regional news and weather (60357512)  
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (90848)  
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (59120135)  
1.50 Working Titles. The series about the working aristocracy meets the Earl of Bradford and the Marquess of Hertford (s) (68480338)  
2.20 Hawaii Five-O. Classic police series starring Jack Lord (1549116)  
3.10 Antiques Roadshow. Presented by Hugh Scully from Farnham in Surrey (s) (Ceefax) (3843048)  
3.50 Children's BBC: Henry's Cat. Cartoon (s) (4785425) 3.55 Wildabout. Wildlife series (s) (2715574) 4.10 Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Cartoon (s) (2637777) 4.35 The Movie Game. Film and video quiz. (Ceefax) (s) (4625222) 5.00 Newsround (6231319)  
5.10 Clowntime Around. A series of eight-part children's drama set in Australia (Ceefax) (s) (9860222)  
5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (288999). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (15)  
6.30 Regional news magazines (95). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (s) (Ceefax)  
7.00 Wogan. Terry's guests include Ivana Trump and Patti Davis (4609)



Inventive designs: Judith Hann, the Prince of Wales (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Tomorrow's World: the Prince of Wales Award for Innovation. From Highgrove House, the Prince of Wales introduces the inventions competing for this year's award and examines the success of past winners. There is also an award for the best product resulting from a university working in collaboration with industry. With Judith Hann, Howard Stabford, Kate Bellingham and Carmen Pyle. (Ceefax) (s) (90)  
8.00 Lovejoy. Montezuma's Revenge. Duddy antiques dealer Ian McShane acquires an ancient Mayan statue (s) (Ceefax) (169338)  
8.50 Points of View. Presented by Anne Robinson (s) (678770)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (9883)  
9.30 Inside Story: Seeing Red  
● CHOICE: London buses may carry more people in a day than all the world's scheduled airlines but the job is fast losing its appeal. Christopher Terrell takes his camera to the Westbourne Park Garage, the capital's biggest, just as John Major is announcing the date of the general election. The timing is significant. One of the big grumbles among bus crews is that Tony Blair's plans will mean redundancies, higher fares and the end of the familiar red London bus. Other complaints are the strain of coping with traffic congestion, physical and verbal assaults from passengers, bomb alerts and low pay. Terrell has assembled a strongly flavoured cast. The star is Shirley Crossland, a 27-year-old northern determined to stand no nonsense: "If the punters have a go at me, I will have a go back." This is hardly a recruiting film. (Ceefax) (s) (590408)  
10.20 International Match of the Day. Bob Wilson introduces highlights from Helsinki of the match between England and Finland, and, from Oslo, of Norway v Scotland (905574)  
11.15 Film: Carry On England (1976). Comic mayhem from the Carry On team in this 28th film. Kenneth Connor stars as the commanding officer of a wartime anti-aircraft battery, who feebly attempts to keep the men and women apart. With Joan Sims, Windsor Davies and Patrick Macnee. Directed by Gerald Thomas. (Ceefax) (464067) 12.45am Weather (1641384)

## SATellite

## SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Maripoc satellites.  
6.00am The DJ Hit Show (1917425) 8.00 Mrs Pepperpot (183574) 8.30am Llamas Play-Along (895222) 8.45am Llamas Make a Deal (93360) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (39932) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (34864) 12.00 St Elsewhere. Down's Syndrome (71222) 1.00pm Llamas (895222) 1.30pm Llamas (895222) 2.30pm Llamas (895222) 3.00pm Llamas (895222) 3.30pm Llamas (895222) 4.00pm Llamas (895222) 4.30pm Llamas (895222) 5.00pm Llamas (895222) 5.30pm Llamas (895222) 6.00pm Llamas (895222) 6.30pm Llamas (895222) 7.00pm Llamas (895222) 7.30pm Llamas (895222) 8.00pm Llamas (895222) 8.30pm Llamas (895222) 9.00pm Llamas (895222) 9.30pm Llamas (895222) 10.00pm Llamas (895222) 10.30pm Llamas (895222) 11.00pm Llamas (895222) 11.30pm Llamas (895222) 12.00am Llamas (895222) 12.30am Llamas (895222) 1.00am Llamas (895222) 1.30am Llamas (895222) 2.00am Llamas (895222) 2.30am Llamas (895222) 3.00am Llamas (895222) 3.30am Llamas (895222) 4.00am Llamas (895222) 4.30am Llamas (895222) 5.00am Llamas (895222) 5.30am Llamas (895222) 6.00am Llamas (895222) 6.30am Llamas (895222) 7.00pm Llamas (895222) 7.30pm Llamas (895222) 8.00pm Llamas (895222) 8.30pm Llamas (895222) 9.00pm Llamas (895222) 9.30pm Llamas (895222) 10.00pm Llamas (895222) 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